THE TIMES

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This year's most talked-about political memoir

Compared with the reality, Yes Minister was understated

George Walden's poison pen

pages 16,17

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Token page 26

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Police seek killer with a grudge linked to television programme

Jill Dando died from bullet in the head

BY ADRIAN LEE, MICHAEL HARVEY AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

POLICE hunting the killer of the television presenter Jill Dando were last night examining hundreds of cases she dealt with on *Crimewatch UK* in the belief that she was murdered by someone with a grudge against the programme.

Miss Dando, who was 38, was shot dead in broad daylight on the doorstep of her £400,000 terrace home in Fulham, west London, at about 11.30 yesterday morning. Police said last night that she had suffered a single gunshot wound to her head.

Her next-door neighbour Richard Hughes, a financial trader, said he heard her car returning home, the blip of its alarm activating and, 40

Barry J Holmes/Radio Times



Jill Dando in "Bond girl" pose in this week's *Radio Times*

seconds later, a scream. "It was more of a surprise scream as if she had turned round and seen somebody," he said.

He then watched as a well-dressed man in his 30s walked calmly away from the scene in the direction of the River Thames. The man was white, clean shaven and well-groomed and was carrying a mobile phone. "He was as cool as a cucumber. I thought it could have been a friend," Mr Hughes said.

By the time he and two other neighbours reached Miss Dando she was unconscious in the doorway of her three-bedroom house on Gowan Avenue. The door was closed and it looked as if she had slumped against it.

"There was blood everywhere. She did not appear to be breathing," Mr Hughes added. "There was blood coming from what appeared to be a wound behind her ear and running down her neck."

Two paramedic teams and a helicopter crew were sent to the scene. They found her suffering from serious head injuries and spent several minutes trying to save her life there. She was then taken to Charing Cross Hospital, three minutes away, where she was certified dead at 1.03pm.

Her fiancé Alan Farthing was called from his gynaecology clinic at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, to be asked to identify the body.

Two others who went to her aid had been involved in a coffee morning just down the street for young mothers with toddlers. Charlotte de Rosney said a friend arrived at her home and told them she had seen a woman slumped in the doorway of number 29. Two of the women quickly went to the scene and called an ambulance. They described Miss Dando as looking blue and lifeless. "They said she was ashen, they didn't come back for 45 minutes and that's when I knew it must be serious," Ms de Rosney said. "I am just so shocked and I feel edgy now. Jill Dando was just very pleasant to everybody."

Miss Dando's death brought tributes from the Queen, the Prime Minister, celebrities and colleagues. Within hours, hundreds of viewers had signed an on-line book of remembrance. The Queen said that she was shocked and saddened by the murder and Tony Blair, who was told of the killing while preparing his Commons statement on the Nato summit, paid tribute to a "hugely talented" public figure.

Last year it was reported that an admirer put a note through Miss Dando's front door after she was pictured in a magazine with Mr Farthing, a consultant gynaecologist whom she met on a blind date. They were planning to marry in September. John Hole, a 62-year-old bachelor, admitted that he had been accused of harassing Miss Dando, but said it was a "bit unfair". He had sent Valentine cards and waited for her outside the BBC studios, but had stopped contacting her after seeing the photograph.

The BBC director of television Alan Yentob said he had been informed about her security concerns. "Of course we were concerned about her

ELEANOR BENTALL



Jill Dando, who died of a single gunshot wound to the head outside her Fulham home yesterday

safety. We did hear the story about the stalker. We live in that kind of dangerous and unpredictable world. She was a professional broadcaster and she had to get on with it, clearly this left her exposed as well."

An emotional Nick Ross, who presented Crimewatch UK with her, said: "The paradox is that we used to say on *Crimewatch* that a crime like this is very rare. In fact, maybe it's not a paradox — it's hit us like lightning, like a bolt out of the blue, it's astonishing, it really is astonishing. She was irritated from time to time, there had been somebody stalking her, but to be honest that really goes with the turf and I don't think there has been a time, certainly that she ever confided in me, where anything untoward like this or even remotely like this seems possible."

Detectives said that they would be looking at the hundreds of cases Miss Dando dealt with on the programme in case someone with a grudge was responsible for the killing.

Last night her brother, Nigel Dando, said the family had last met over the Easter weekend when she brought Dr Farthing to discuss details for their summer wedding. "Jill was so looking forward to that and was on top form. She was a devoted daughter and a loving sister and we shall miss her. People who knew her through her television work will miss her. Her roots were still in Weston. She did charity work there and still loved it here." Her 81-year-old father, Jack, was too upset to say anything.

Miss Dando had intended to slow

Continued on page 2, col 5

Obituary, page 23

Dissenting voice seen as proof of split in Belgrade

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY Blair and other Nato leaders seized on the first signs of a serious rift in Belgrade yesterday after the Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister called on the regime to stop lying to the people.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said that President Milosevic's regime was beginning to crack under the united pressure of the alliance and that an interview given by Vuk Draskovic "blew a hole in the facade of Belgrade unity".

Mr Draskovic, who has a reputation as a maverick, told the local Studio B television: "People who lead this country must say clearly where we stand. They must say what will be left of Serbia in 20 days if the bombing continues.

"The people should be told that Nato is not facing a breakdown, that Russia will not help Yugoslavia militarily and that the world's public opinion is against us."

Downing Street said a split was emerging and that there was clearly "outright dissent at the heart of Milosevic's regime".

Mr Blair said that many within the Belgrade Government and army were concerned at what Mr Milosevic had done to his country. "He has bankrupted it, its entire infrastructure is now being dismantled and he has become a complete pariah in his own region." Mr Draskovic's words were a clear indication of those strains, he added.

Nato said that Belgrade was beginning to realise the seriousness of its situation. Jamie Shea, the alliance spokesman, said in Washington that Mr Draskovic, formerly the leader of the Serbian opposition, was "no friend of Nato" and had in the past espoused Serb nationalism.

"The statements that he made last night show that there are senior members of the Yugoslav Government that are beginning to recognise the reality of the situation Yugoslavia is in," he said.

In an upbeat statement on the Nato summit in Washington over the weekend, Mr Blair told MPs that there had been total and unified commitment by all members of the alliance to defeat and reverse the policy of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. "Each leader began his statement by saying Nato will and must prevail. It is our collective task now to make that victory, of justice over evil, a reality for Kosovo's long-suffering people."

But he also made plain that the use of ground forces before a peace settlement remained on the agenda. He repeated the formula that President Milosevic had no veto over Nato's actions and emphasised several times that forces were being built up in the region.

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Building society windfall

BY SUSAN EMMETT

MORE than three million members of Bradford & Bingley Building Society are set to receive a windfall of up to £1,000 each after members voted in favour of the society's conversion to a bank.

The result represents a resounding defeat for the board, which ran a £5 million campaign against conversion. A majority of 62 per cent voted in favour of abandoning the society's mutual status to become a bank with a stock market listing.

But savers and borrowers will have to wait at least another year before receiving their windfalls. The decision by Bradford & Bingley members is likely to spark a new round of so-called carpetbagging by speculators seeking to open accounts at other mutual building societies that might float on the stock market.

Business, page 27

A shaken 007 stirs the Scots to rescue SNP

Gillian Harris on Sean Connery's political debut

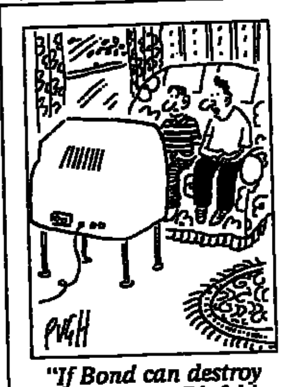
SEAN CONNERY'S role yesterday was not to save a country, capitalism or even a girl but a flagging election campaign that has run out of steam.

Connery is 68, long past the age when, as 007, he used to outwit the world's deadliest villains and save democracy for HMG.

But yesterday he was back on duty, called out of retirement by the Scottish National Party to confront a challenge almost as grave as those he used to face at the hands of Goldfinger or Dr No.

The SNP, adrift by 14 points in the opinion polls, is in trouble. Its campaign seems dead in the water, its arch-opponents, Labour, are heading for a seemingly unstoppable victory on May 6.

Time for the man whose slurred S's are almost as famous as his deep brown eyes and crooked grin, to take centre stage and save the nation for independence.



"If Bond can destroy Goldfinger, Blofeld and Smersh, surely he can see off Donald Dewar?"

He made his move at a rally in Edinburgh where the invited audience of 300 SNP activists gave him a rapturous reception as he strolled to the podium wearing a grey suit and maroon tie.

Connery put on his glasses, cleared his throat and began to speak. "Fellow members of the SNP," he said in his distinctive accent and was immediately drowned out by cheers.

His four-minute speech, which he had written himself, set out a vision for Scotland's future.

"Whatever I have done or attempted to do for Scotland has always been for her and not for my own benefit. I defy anyone to prove otherwise.

"My position on Scotland has never changed in 30-odd years. Scotland should be nothing less than equal with all of the other nations of the world."

Connery spoke of the refer-

Continued on page 7, col 1

The final pages of books offer

BY HANNAH BETTS

MORE than one hundred million tokens have been redeemed by schools collecting for free books through *The Times*, and organisers are bracing themselves for a deluge of millions more.

The final token in the Free Books for Schools offer will be printed on Friday, leaving just three days for schools to add to their totals. However, that still means that several million tokens will be available in *The Times*, *The Sun* and on packs of Walkers snackfoods, so schools can add to the half a million new books already ordered.

Wednesbury Oak Primary School in Tipton, West Midlands has redeemed the most tokens so far with 104,621, and *Blitz*, a collection of Second World War stories by Robert Westall is the most frequently requested title.

Token, page 26

Parliament takes lead in tributes

By Dominic Kennedy

THE Prime Minister led tributes to Jill Dando by colleagues, celebrities and politicians. Tony Blair was told of her murder as he prepared his Commons statement on the Nato summit.

A spokesman for Mr Blair said: "He was deeply shocked. He had met her both professionally and socially at Downing Street and, in common with many people, he found her totally charming and highly talented. He thinks it appalling that anybody could do such a thing."



Nick Ross at BBC Television Centre yesterday

Her killing was raised in the Commons by Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Home Secretary. He said: "On behalf of the Opposition, can I say that we have all been appalled to hear the news of the murder of Jill Dando?"

MPs murmured agreement as he continued: "She was someone I knew and admired and she did a vast amount to combat crime, there is no question of that. It's an horrific murder and a terrible loss."

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, said: "May I associate myself and the Government with your remarks? Jill Dando was someone who was known to virtually everybody in this country, if not personally. She was someone who was at the height of her powers.

"She had done a huge amount personally in the fight against crime by her role not least in *Crimewatch UK*, and therefore this makes her death all the more poignant.

"I'm sure I speak for the whole House when I say that our deepest sympathy goes to her loved ones, her family and her friends at this terrible, tragic and appalling loss."

The BBC Director-General, Sir John Birt, said: "This is devastating news. Jill was loved by her audiences and by everyone who worked with her at the BBC. Jill's public and private persona were one and the same. She was modest and and lacking in self-regard, a popular member of any team and never a prima donna. Jill will be forever remembered for her sweet, unaffected elegance."

Jennie Bond, the news presenter, said: "The more popular she was, the more ordinary she was with us. She was a very happy person and never happier than in recent months, when she had met her fiance and was making plans to get married.

"Away from her career on screen, she also helped out a number of charities."

Leslie Fake, chairman of Weston Hospicecare, said: "I have known her come down from London to Weston and come into the patients' unit and sit and talk to patients.

"Some days later maybe, she would send a card of encouragement to them in their troubles, and that is a side that probably few people were privileged to see. She was truly a Christian lady."

Nick Ross, her fellow *Crimewatch* presenter, said: "We were colleagues, but we were friends as well.

"People say treacly things in these situations, but the truth is that everybody got on with Jill. She was just a generous, open, friendly person. There was no side to her at all. She was charming to everyone — everything you could wish for in a colleague or a friend.

"Everything seemed to be going well for her. She was in bubbly spirits and looking forward to getting married this year. The one thing that had been missing from her life was real romance leading to marriage, and that was about to happen with Alan."

The chairman of the Police Federation, Fred Broughton, said: "We are deeply upset. It is a cruel irony that someone who cared so much for the victims of crime should be killed in this tragic way. Jill was a great supporter of the police service, a compassionate and caring person, and she will be sadly missed."

Nicholas Wytchell, who was her co-presenter on *BBC Breakfast News* for five years, said: "Jill was always a down-to-earth person, which is not always the case with people who have achieved the kind of spectacular and deserved success she had."

The Sky presenter David Fitzgerald, who was a friend, said: "She was a lovely woman, and what you saw was what you got."

Keith Betton, head of corporate affairs at the Association of British Travel Agents and a close friend of Miss Dando, said: "We are all terribly shocked that this has happened. It's even more tragic that it has happened just when she had found the person she wanted to settle down with."

The Conservative leader, William Hague, said: "I am shocked and horrified by this senseless and brutal murder."

The Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, said: "It is a terrible irony that, after all her work defending the victims of crime and help in pursuing criminals, she should fall victim herself to a horrific crime."

A spokesman for Prince Edward's fiancée, Sophie Rhys-Jones, a friend of Miss Dando, said she was "deeply shocked and upset".



ALAN DAVIDSON

Jill Dando and her fiance Alan Farthing, a consultant, earlier this year

'Girl next door with gravitas' was perfect presenter

Presenter was the embodiment of polite middle England, reports **Carol Midgley**

IN Jill Dando, the BBC had found the prototype of its near-perfect television presenter.

Attractive but not intimidatingly beautiful, well-spoken but not "snooty", friendly but with a calm air of authority, she was the very embodiment of polite Middle England. Viewers warmed to her because she had no airs and graces. BBC executives valued her because she was so adaptable.

Few presenters could combine presenting programmes as disparate as *Holiday*, *Crimewatch* and the *Six O'Clock News*, and appear naturally suited to all of them. Her shows had consistently good ratings. Jill Dando personified the special ingredient which BBC policy-makers covet: presenters with the ability to retain gravitas while coming over to the viewer as the girl next door.

It is part of the BBC's stated policy, after months of audience research, to secure more personalities from just her mould. However, if there was a flaw in Miss Dando's make-up, it was that some considered her association with a holiday programme made her too "showbusiness" to be a full-time newsreader.

It was this which cost her the job earlier this year as chief anchor for the new *Six O'Clock News*, to be relaunched next month.

Some BBC executives thought she was the perfect face to draw a wider audience to serious news and current affairs. Others, however, argued that she was too lightweight and would not create the right impression for its key news programme.

As the debate was raging in the press, Dando, with typical serenity, announced that she did not wish her future career to be the subject of BBC leaks and gossip and withdrew her name from the running.

Instead, she signed up for a number of new projects with BBC1 controller, Peter Salmon, that were still being discussed. The *Six O'Clock News* job went to Huw Edwards, a former political correspondent for the BBC.

"Jill was quintessentially BBC. She had a very British, very reassuring television presence," said a colleague. "She was a dream to work with. A lot of people in her position can behave like real prima donnas about things, but she was always very down to earth."

Some described Miss Dando as bland because of her clean-cut image. But television executives believed the fact that she did not have an overbearing personality was one of the things viewers liked best.

There are few women broadcasters around who can claim blonde appeal without the label of "bimbo". As the BBC will find, no doubt, when it tries to replace her.

Tough laws try to curb threat to women

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

JILL DANDO was yet another celebrity victim of the attentions of a stalker. Obsessive stalking is increasingly part of the cost of fame.

Members of the Royal Family, notably the Princess Royal and Diana, Princess of Wales, have been victims. So, too, has the singer Madonna, the actress Kate Winslet and the TV weatherman Bill Giles.

But it was the trauma suffered by women far from the public eye that forced Parliament to introduce an anti-stalking law two years ago.

The move reflected the changing perception of stalking as women's groups and the charity Victim Support pressed MPs to recognise it as a serious threat.

The case of Tracy Sant, who was subjected to a three-year campaign of terror during which her stalker repeatedly broke injunctions and bail conditions not to approach her, showed how existing legislation had let them down.

Her stalker, Anthony Burstow, was jailed for three years in 1996 after he became the first stalker to be convicted of assault occasioning grievous bodily harm.

By then both the Conservative and Labour parties were agreed that the existing criminal law was ineffective. Prosecutors were arguing that the stress caused by relentless stalking amounted to actual or grievous bodily harm but the problem was proving that the stalker intended his victim harm, the key part of the offence.

The new law, the Protection from Harassment Act, created two new criminal offences to deal with stalking, which was deliberately left undefined, and a new civil offence of molestation.

Under the Act, which came into force in June 1997, it is a criminal offence "to use words or behaviour, on more than one occasion, which would put the victim in fear of violence, either intentionally or in circumstances where a reasonable person would have realised this would be the effect".

The maximum penalty is five years in jail and/or an unlimited fine.

It is also a criminal offence to use words or behaviour on more than one occasion which could "cause the victim to be harassed, alarmed or distressed, either intentionally or in circumstances where a reasonable person would have realised this would be the effect".

The maximum penalty is six months in jail and/or a £5,000 fine.

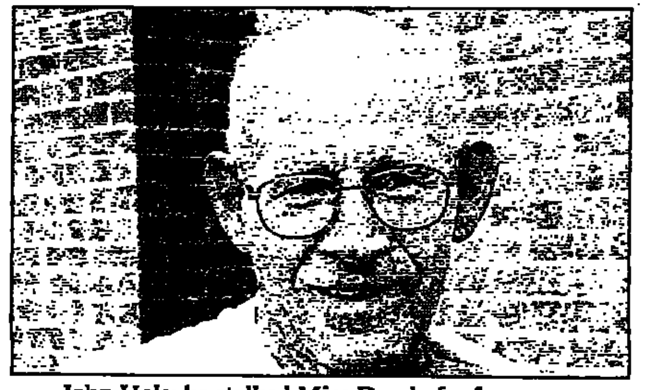
A restraining order is also available by an injunction where words or behaviour are used which cause the victim distress. A breach is a criminal offence with a penalty of five years in prison and/or an unlimited fine.

Stalker tells of his shock at 'great loss'

By Adam Sherwin

THE man who stalked Jill Dando for four years expressed shock at her murder. John Hole, a retired civil servant in his 60s, from Kent, admitted bombarding the presenter with telephone calls and visits to her home on several occasions.

Speaking outside his home, Mr Hole said: "I am shocked to hear the circumstances surrounding her death. I can't understand why anyone would want to display violence towards this woman. I think it was a great loss."



John Hole: he stalked Miss Dando for four years

Mr Hole said the first he heard of the murder was when a reporter called his home. Mr Hole said: "Someone called, but I thought it was a try-on. I am very sorry it happened. I know no more than that. I want to be left alone. She was a marvellous presenter, very good at her job."

Mr Hole said he had not bothered Miss Dando for more than a year. He said: "As far as I'm concerned, my involvement with Jill Dando was over when an article was published last year about her new romance. I haven't spoken to her since then."

Mr Hole spoke after cycling back to his £100,000 home in Willesbrough, Kent. He added: "I won't be sending flowers to her funeral. We weren't that close."

Neighbours have described Mr Hole as a loner and he has admitted an obsession with the presenter last year when BBC security officers sent him a letter, ordering him to stop harassing her.

Mr Hole has said of his targeting of Miss Dando: "I have never made any death threats. I've never threatened her with violence."

During the four years he spent harassing Miss Dando, he admitted waiting outside her home and the BBC studios. He said: "I found out by perfectly legal means where she lived and knocked on the door. I've been about three times but there was no answer."

Mr Hole, who is not married and said he had no steady relationships, said: "I started off sending a Valentine's card. Then I wrote, asking to meet her. I just wanted to get to know her and I would have liked to have gone out with her. Sometimes you are attracted to certain people you like to think you are chasing after. Unfortunately for Jill, she fell within my sights."

Miss Dando played down the harassment, but asked BBC officials to warn Mr Hole to cease his attentions. Mr Hole said he had complied. He said: "I have got to stop what I'm doing or face the consequences."

Dando died from bullet in head

Continued from page 1

down in the run-up to her autumn wedding, but even taking it easy brought fresh publicity for the presenter.

During her last days, the *Crimewatch UK* and *Holiday* star continued to bask in the limelight and sparkle in private. Miss Dando even made her Page 3 debut when a raunchy photo-shoot for the cover of *Radio Times* was picked up and used by newspapers last Tuesday.

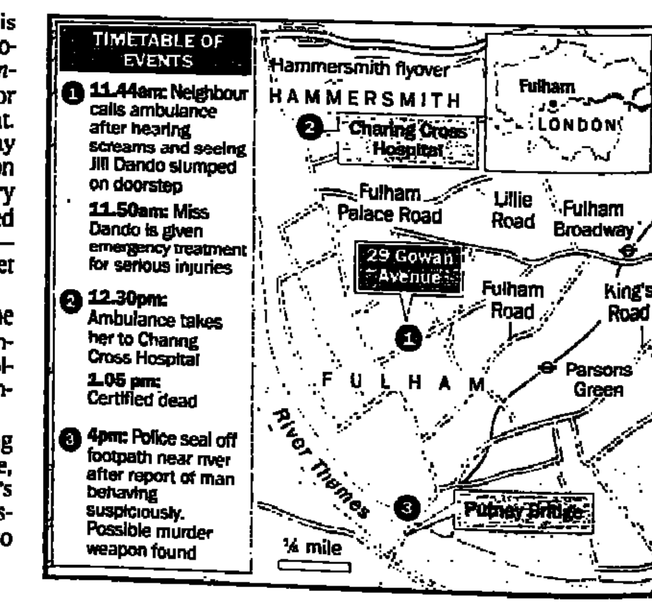
That night she returned to a better-known role, presenting this month's edition of *Crimewatch UK*, which included an appeal for information about the Brixton nail bombing.

But the picture of leather-clad Miss Dando stood in front of an Aston Martin is still in thousands of homes promoting the new series *Antiques Inspectors*, screened for the first time on Sunday night.

Having spent Saturday night at a Royal British Legion dinner in the Natural History Museum — where she danced with friend Lord Archer — Miss Dando opted for a quiet night in as the show aired.

The congratulatory phone call from her future father-in-law John Farthing that followed was among the last conversations she had.

Retired doctor Mr Farthing and his wife, from Highcliffe, Dorset, praised Miss Dando's performance before discussing plans for her wedding to their son.



Police seek Crimewatch clues

Detectives sift through cases from television series in search for clues to killer, writes Adam Fresco

DETECTIVES yesterday began trawling through the hundreds of cases featured on *Crimewatch UK* while presented by Jill Dando looking for possible links with her murder.

Colleagues from the show yesterday expressed fears that the killing was linked to the show and may have been a revenge attack from one of the people she helped to bring to justice.

As the BBC tried to come to terms with the murder, executives said they would be looking at the issue of security for their presenters to see if it needed to be tighter.

At present Miss Dando, as with all presenters, would have been driven to and from her home to the studios in West London. Apart from that there was thought to be no need to offer her or any other presenter any extra protection.

Last year Miss Dando was stalked by an obsessive' fan but did not think he was a threat. She spoke to Nick Ross, her co-presenter, about the problem. He said: "But only in the sense of being an irritant. She hadn't mentioned anything that might cause her anxiety.

"She certainly never said to me that she was frightened or fearful, that something terrible could come of this."

Mr Ross said yesterday that when told of her death he wondered if it could be linked to their series which she began working on in 1995.

Mr Ross, who described the presenter as "enormously popular" among her BBC colleagues, said: "One of the first things that ran through my mind was if it could possibly be connected with *Crimewatch*.

"But we don't go around shooting the barristers, the police or the judges in this country — let alone television presenters. I can only imagine it must have been someone completely deranged. Jill was not the sort of person to attract any enemies. That is why it is so appalling."

Jill Dando described herself as having "the girl-next-door demeanour that some people like and which others find a turnoff. I'm not a sex symbol and I'm not telly totty so I don't know what the appeal is."

Dismayed at how some in the BBC hierarchy privately dismissed her as "Miss Blando", she said: "Just because I've got blonde hair and haven't been to Bosnia doesn't mean I'm a bimbo."

Her breakthrough to the national network came in 1988 when aged 26 she was asked to join BBC's *Breakfast Time*, filling in for women presenters on maternity leave. "It was the county girl coming to the big city and I was overawed," she said.

Some critics dismissed her as prim but the many male admirers in her audience disagreed, among them senior BBC executives who in memos praised her "concealed, docile sexiness".

While the tabloids began to pester her for details of her private life she carefully concealed her affair with her boss at *Breakfast Time*, Bob Wheaton.

When she was later asked if she wanted to present *Crimewatch*, she confessed to having doubts whether to present the police series, asking Nick Ross whether he had ever been threatened. "I was aware this job could mean I was putting myself in the firing line."

She had a sheltered upbringing by over-protective parents who feared for her after she underwent life saving heart surgery as a toddler. Born with a hole in the heart doctors at the Bristol Royal Infirmary told her parents when she was three they couldn't wait any longer to operate or she would die.

Her death has forced the BBC into a review of security. Alan Yentob, Director of Television for the BBC, said: "Clearly the security of presenters is something we will want to look at."

A spokesman added: "Presenters of *Crimewatch* had a higher awareness of crime and security because of the nature of what they did but you cannot legislate in advance for a moment of madness.

"People who present news are public figures and it would be impossible to guard every television presenter day and night. We will look at the circumstances of her death and if it turns out it was linked to her career as a presenter it is something we would want to examine."

The *Crimewatch* programme has featured more than 1,700 cases leading to more than 600 arrests. The monthly show's one in three success rate is considerably better than the national average clear-up rate of 26 per cent.

The murders of Linda Russell and her daughter Megan were undoubtedly the highest-profile appeal made while she was fronting the show.

Two *Crimewatch* reconstructions of the savage hammer attack in Kent produced more than 600 calls — including one that led police to Michael Stone. Last October Stone was jailed for life for murdering the mother and daughter and battering Josie to within inches of her life.

In her last *Crimewatch* programme on Tuesday she appealed for information on a man molesting children in Essex, highlighted the death of a Swedish tourist who was pulled from a bus and an armed robbery in Cheltenham where a quantity of valuables and money was taken.

Car-jackers operating in north London and a bag-snatcher who dragged a Swedish tourist to her death were also in her and co-host Nick Ross's sights last week.

A spokeswoman for the programme said yesterday the items had generated a "good response" but police had not reported any arrests.

Her new series, *Antiques Inspectors*, where a team looks in garden sheds and garages for antiques, started on Sunday but the BBC is undecided whether to show the rest of the series, which has already been recorded.

Roger Cook, the investigative television reporter, has received many death threats over the years he has been exposing crooks and often has at least two bodyguards with him when out filming.

Mr Cook, 55, has suffered 21 attacks and was threatened at gunpoint four times during the 12-year series. Central, which makes the series *The Cook Report*, refused to comment yesterday on further security measures taken to protect the presenter.

He was once warned by police to check under his car for bombs every time he went out after a contract was put out on him by an underworld boss.

Features, page 18



The high-profile faces of Jill Dando, from her new BBC antiques series, top, to presenting the *Holiday* programme, *Crimewatch UK*, and the *Six O'Clock News*

Somerset seaside resort mourns favourite daughter

By Simon de Bruxelles

WESTON-SUPER-MARE was last night mourning its favourite daughter.

Although she travelled the world and became a household name Miss Dando never lost touch with the Somerset town where she grew up and later spent four years as a cub reporter.

She started her career on the local weekly newspaper, the *Weston and Somerset Mercury*, where her father Jack, now in his 80s, was chief compositor and her older brother, Nigel, was a reporter.

Mr Dando, 47, first heard of his sister's death in a television newsflash. Speaking at his father's bungalow in Weston last night he said: "I was working in the newsroom of the *Bristol Evening Post* when I got a call to say Jill had been involved in an incident. I decided to follow it up myself by making a couple of calls when a newsflash came on one of the TV screens in the office to say that Jill had been killed.

"We are devastated by what has happened to Jill. It is simply unimaginable why anyone should want to end her life in this tragic way.

"The open, friendly, approachable personality who appeared on our TV screens was no act. I last saw her on Easter Sunday, when she and her fiancé, Alan Farthing, came over to my house near Bath and we all had Sunday lunch. She was on good form. She was looking forward to her wedding. We were all looking forward to that so much . . . now this."

Few places are bleaker than a holiday resort out of season but a particular pall hung over Jill Dando's home town yesterday. The town had been looking forward to emerging from its winter hibernation but in the bus queues and the cafés there was only glum faces and one topic of conversation. On the windswept seafront where the grey sea merged with the grey sky, a solitary old man hunched against the wind as he read the front-page news in the evening paper.

The current editor of the *Mercury*, where Miss Dando's career began in 1979, Judi Kisiel, said: "Jill was Weston's favourite daughter. The whole town is in shock."

Gordon Wilsher, the paper's chief reporter for 40 years and Miss Dando's mentor, remembers a lively, enthusiastic personality who played a leading role in the Weston Dramatic Society and had unusually good access to local government. "She never hid her ambition to get into broadcasting, but while she was here she always seemed to enjoy the job. She was a great favourite," he said. "One year, I recall, the Mayor of Weston was a bachelor who had his sister as his Lady Mayoress but if there was a function she couldn't attend, he'd ask Jill instead."

Jeremy Williams, the former Editor of the *Mercury* who gave her that first job at the age of 16, said: "It was clear from the start how good she would be. She was very friendly, outgoing and really interested in people. Those qualities stayed with her throught her career and she never changed even though she became a star.

"She was always friendly and bubbly and nothing was too much trouble and went to great lengths to put people at ease. If you think of someone you would want around for dinner it would be Jill because you knew you would get a relaxed fun evening."

Miss Dando, whose mother died of cancer aged 52, helped raise over £150,000 for a hospice in Weston and opened the building in 1996.



Jill Dando in 1988, when she worked for regional TV



No rest for the prisoners of fame

From Giles Whittell in Los Angeles

JILL DANDO'S death appears to have brought to London a scourge that for decades has made US stars prisoners of fame, surrounded night and day by almost presidential levels of security.

Steven Spielberg and Madonna are merely the most recent household names to testify in court against obsessive stalkers who, not satisfied with an autograph, set out to share their idols' lives; or even end them.

These two were among the lucky ones. On a summer night in Miami, in 1997, Gianni Versace was shot at point-blank range outside his house. The killing showed the risk public figures run in the US when choosing to step outside the security cordon that comes as a price of their celebrity. Since the gruesome killing of Roman Polanski's wife, the actress Sharon Tate, by Charles Manson's followers in 1969, stopping stalkers has been as much of a preoccupation for Hollywood royalty as pleasing fans.

Security guards and cameras are the norm at stars' homes in Los Angeles, as are bodyguards for even the shortest outing. Younger celebrities who underestimate the risk do so at their peril; Brad Pitt was fortunate last year that a young woman who broke into his home only wanted to wear his pyjamas and sleep in his bed.

Others live either invisibly, except for tightly controlled public appearances, or with hair-trigger anxiety. The Spielbergs, like Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, live behind anonymous gates and dense woods on streets in Pacific Palisades were patrol cars from private security firms question strangers.

Most, but not all, are spotted. Last year Jonathan Norman, 31, was sentenced to life in prison for climbing into the Spielbergs' grounds with handcuffs, duct tape and, apparently, a morbid sexual obsession for the director. Details of the Spielberg family's daily routines were found in his flat.

The year before Robert Hoskins, an unemployed loner, received a ten-year sentence for lingering in the driveway to a fortress-like mansion Madonna owned atop the Hollywood Hills.

Taken to task? Only if the questioners have asked for it



Prolonged periods spent in the company of military persons takes its toll on plain English. After a weekend in Washington at Nato's 50th birthday party, Tony Blair's command of his own language has been ... well, diminished and degraded.

First casualty of Nato's linguistic attrition seems to be the word "ask". As he reported his Summit attendance (to a thin House) yesterday, it became clear he had forgotten this helpful little expression, so widely understood by ordinary people. Our PM no longer asks, he tasks.

The Prime Minister seemed to have been tasking a lot. His response to MPs' toughest inquiries was that he had "tasked" somebody else to come up with an answer. When William Hague wanted to know whether oil sanctions against Serbia would be enforced against Russian tankers, and whether Nato intended to board and inspect the vessels, Mr Blair said he had "tasked" Nato planners to find the solution to this dilemma.

Alice Mahon (Lab, Halifax) was worried about Serbia's neighbour, neutral Montenegro. What if the Russians tried to ship oil to Montenegro? Mr Blair replied that Nato planners had been "tasked" to come up with the answer to that, too.

A vignette of the Blairs at breakfast swims into the mind's eye. "Was that the last of the Shredded Wheat, Cherie," asks Dad, shaking an empty carton. "No," says Mum. "Twice I've tasked Euan to fetch the new box in. But there's just no tasking that boy. Task Kate, dear: she listens to you ..." (Cherie starts opening the post) "Ooh look! The Sedgefield Labour Club have tasked you to unveil their new Pool Lounge."

Easy to mock, of course. But the use of specialist language to describe commonplace activities serves a purpose, dignifying the obvious and imparting a sense of mysterious expertise to what might otherwise sound a silly answer.

Consider in more detail those two questions, to either or both of which a whole string of backbenchers wanted answers. William Hague, Tam Dalyell (Lab, Linlithgow), Donald Anderson (the Labour Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee), Alice Mahon, Roseanna Cunningham (SNP, Perth) and Denzil Davies (Lab, Llanelli) wanted to know how you could cut off Serbia's oil supplies without strangling Montenegro; and what was the point of apprehending friendly oil tankers unless you apprehend the Russian ones too.

Simple conundrums, these: rather like asking how you would drive to Cornwall without passing through Devon. Imagine asking the Transport Minister the first, and the Home Secretary the second, and being told: "I've asked a committee of experts to find the answer." Ludicrous. But the Prime Minister has tasked the experts. So that's all right, then.

Mr Blair did betray frustration at having to give these non-answers. Towards the end of the session he began telling those who questioned him about apprehending Russian tankers, that he had, of course, tasked Nato to consider this question — but adding (to Tam Dalyell) that in his view Nato would appear to "lack seriousness" if we did not take "measures" against all shipments.

It struck me this was susceptible to the headline 'Stop Russian tankers,' Blair tells Nato, but, tasked to keep an eye on the Chamber, reporters' attention wanders.

Kosovo, pages 13-15

Forgotten rural poor are losing out, says Prince

Government and business urged to tackle poverty beyond the inner cities, reports Alexandra Frean

BRITAIN's rural poor risk being neglected, as business and ministers pour money into inner-city regeneration, the Prince of Wales will say today.

Business leaders and politicians should do more to help farmers and other country dwellers to diversify economically and develop stronger community ties, the Prince believes.

He is anxious to encourage schemes that would enable people in rural areas to reclaim unused land for projects that would benefit the local area — from playgrounds to co-operatively-run shops.

A source close to the Prince said yesterday: "What companies and the Government should do is look at the experience of regeneration projects that have been successful in the inner cities and see if there are lessons that can be transferred to rural areas.

"Some of the issues that need to be tackled are: how can farming communities diversify? What more can done to make better use of open spaces?"

The Prince's comments take him into a highly charged political arena. Last year's countryside march, in which some 150,000 people marched on London, betrayed a widespread unease about perceived marginalisation of the countryside. After failing to persuade the previous Conservative administration of the importance of community enterprise schemes, the Prince is said to be relieved that the Labour Government is embracing his ideas through its own community-based regeneration programmes.

He is pleased at the "green spaces initiative" launched last month by the New Opportunities Fund, which will make £125 million of lottery money available to community projects to develop parks and playing fields in both rural and urban areas.

The Prince's speech will be delivered at the twelfth annual Community Enterprise Awards ceremony, run by his charity, Business in the Community, and sponsored by *The Times* and NatWest.

He will highlight the achievements of Business in the Community, which used last year's awards ceremony to launch an ambitious Regeneration Action programme in 40 of the nation's most deprived communities.

Businesses that have taken part in the scheme have contributed more than £5 million in cash and kind to community-led projects in the scheme.

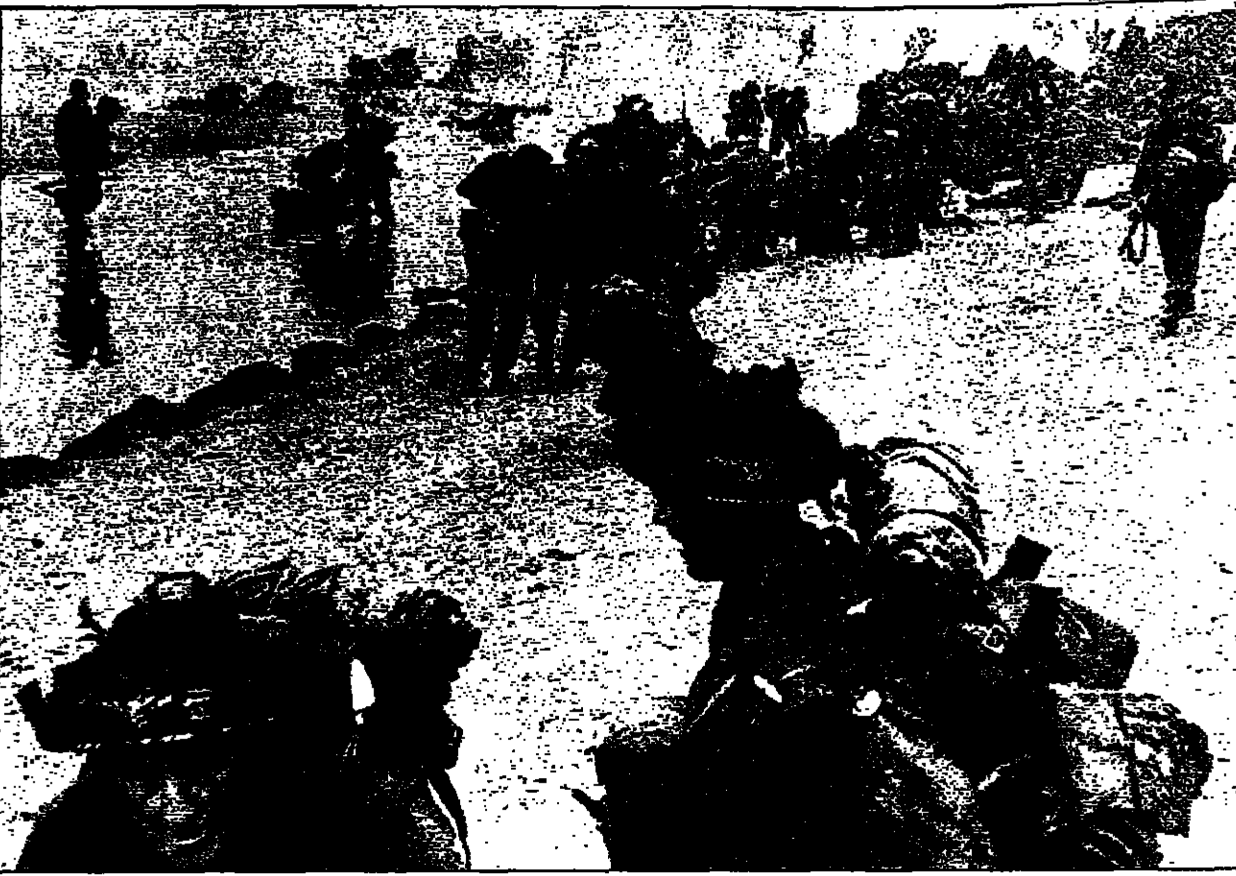
The awards ceremony at St James's Palace in London will be attended by Mannie Jackson, chairman and owner of the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team. Mr Jackson, a former Globetrotter player, is a leading figure in the community entrepreneur movement in the United States.

☐ The Prince yesterday likened inner-city industrial buildings to palaces and cathedrals and spoke of his despair as many were torn down.

"One remarkable industrial building after another has been systematically demolished ... mercilessly swept away in a fashionable frenzy," he told the "Making Heritage Industrial Buildings Work" conference.

The Prince was speaking at the former Great Western Railway works in Swindon which is being converted into a heritage centre. He said there were many vacant industrial buildings of comparable merit. "The challenge is to ensure where appropriate they are conserved and brought back into contemporary use."

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM



The often-reproduced photograph of the D-Day landings. Roy Walker, below, is the soldier in the left foreground

Camera-shy warrior comes clean

THE identity of a British Tommy caught in one of the most famous photographs of the D-Day landings has finally been uncovered (Paul Wilkinson writes).

For almost 45 years Roy Walker kept quiet despite seeing himself in countless newspapers, magazines and textbooks on the invasion on June 6, 1944. He even resisted an Imperial War Museum appeal for soldiers in the shot taken on Sword beach to come forward.

But now Mr Walker has disclosed that he is the battle-weary young soldier at the water's edge. He was discovered by Barrie Barnes, a teacher from Hull, who is writing a book about his old unit, the 50th Northumbrian Regiment.

Mr Walker, now 79, and living in Scarborough, said: "Barrie is the only one I've told apart from a few close friends. I've seen the picture published all over the place, but I'm not one for getting my name on the front page, so I just kept it to myself." He said he had been taking a wounded comrade in his bren-gun carrier to a beach first aid post. "I chased along the beach in my carrier and was stopped by the beachmaster, who bawled at me: 'What the bloody 'ell are you doing? You're attracting enemy fire ...' I told him what had happened and had to walk my mate down to the water's edge, where a first aid post was being set up.

"As I was walking back to the gun carrier somebody took my photo, which appeared in all the daily papers later."



Alan Clark condemns 'incompetent' leader

Maverick MP's remarks echo misgivings of senior Tories at reforms, says Roland Watson

WILLIAM Hague faced the first signs of open revolt at the jettisoning of his party's Thatcherite past yesterday with a direct assault on his leadership.

Alan Clark, former minister and MP for Kensington and Chelsea, said the confusion about the party's direction was "deplorable". He added: "I think the whole row looks bad and just shows how incompetently we are being led."

Although regarded as a maverick, Mr Clark's remarks echo the private misgivings of a number of Tory MPs at the handling and substance of Mr Hague's new approach to public services.

There was also further confusion last night at the latest policy ideas floated by Peter Lilley, the Tory deputy leader. At the weekend he raised the prospect of privatising the Post Office and turning over proceeds from the National Lottery to the National Health Service, a proposal the Tories have vigorously attacked Labour for.

Sources close to John Redwood, the shadow industry secretary, said yesterday that it was "wrong" to suggest the party might go for a wholesale sell-off of the Post Office.

MPs close to the health team, led by Ann Widdecombe, expressed astonishment that the Tories should adopt an idea they had so roundly criticised.

Tory chiefs stressed that Mr Lilley was only turning over ideas, and that neither had been adopted as party policy.

Mr Hague conceded yesterday that there had been some "lively discussion" in the Shadow Cabinet about switching the emphasis away from private sector solutions for the health and education services. He insisted, though, that the party was united and that he would not be deterred from presenting to voters a more consumer-friendly image of the Tories.

The leadership is encouraged that its polls show Labour's lead over health had been cut by nearly a quarter in the past six months, with the Tories also making up ground on education.

Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, kept up the modernising momentum by pledging last night to match the Government's £40 billion extra for health and education over the next three years.

Tory officials insisted that Mr Maude's speech to the Regents Park and Kensington North Conservative Association did not mean the party no longer believed in cutting government spending. They indicated the party's next election manifesto would include a commitment to cutting taxes. The search for large-scale savings to meet the party's traditional commitment to a smaller State will concentrate on the £100 billion social security budget.

Millennial jeers for Dobson

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

NHS workers booed and jeered Frank Dobson yesterday when he refused to consider allowing them a £500 bonus for working over the millennium holiday period.

The Health Secretary was supposed to be guest of honour at the annual conference in Brighton of Unison, the public service union. Instead the 800 delegates, who represent ancillary workers given a 2.8 per cent pay rise this year, heard his 40-minute speech in silence. After perfunctory applause they then launched into a series of attacking questions on pay, NHS reforms and millennium working arrangements.

"Will you be working over the millennium and how much will you be getting paid?" Yunis Bakhus, a nurse from Newcastle, asked to cheers and applause.

To a rising chorus of jeers the Health Secretary began a long, rambling answer about how the NHS needed to be able to deliver a full service over the holiday period.

"I think I have got an official invitation to go to the Dome," he said eventually. "Whether that is work or pleasure I don't really know."

The Health Department has told health authorities to ensure that they provide proper transport and catering over the holiday, but to make no special payments.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New effort to cut red tape

The Prime Minister has ordered a war on red tape after complaints that industry is struggling to cope with new regulations and laws. Government departments are to face checks to ensure that new laws do not suffocate or overburden business or the professions with bureaucratic demands.

Dr Jack Cunningham, Minister for the Cabinet Office, has been given the new enforcement role inside Whitehall to tackle ministries which clutter legislation with unnecessary regulations and paperwork. He is to outline his approach tonight in a speech to the Social Market Foundation.

Dyslexic pupils rap Blunkett

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, who has said he is concerned about the plight of dyslexic children, has apologised to 11 Nunnykirk Hall special school pupils in Netherwhitton, Northumberland, after sending them a 51-page policy report in response to a simple question. His department's two-page, closely typed "sorry" note also upset the teenagers and their teacher. It was too difficult to read.

Court criticises TV film-maker

A documentary maker filming the "seriously delinquent" lifestyles of five young people in Nottingham went far beyond merely observing them, the High Court ruled. Sir Stephen Brown asked for undertakings from October Films and Channel 4 not to use the footage in four of the cases and not to identify the fifth youth. Nottingham City Council brought the action to protect the children, who were in its care.

Bicycle thief was caught on the run

A marathon runner was arrested as he crossed the finishing line of a race after a fellow athlete recognised him as a bicycle thief. The man was led away for questioning in his running shorts and vest just minutes after he completed the 26-mile South Coast Marathon in Gosport, Hampshire, and later admitted theft. After being taken to the police station the runner asked to go to the exercise yard.

Cancer helpline is launched

A helpline was launched yesterday at the start of a new campaign against Britain's second biggest cancer killer. The 24-hour Symptoms Hotline will alert people to the signs of bowel cancer, which claims nearly 20,000 lives each year. Set up by the Crocus Trust charity, the line was developed by former BBC *Watchdog* presenter and cancer sufferer Lynn Faulds Wood. The Hotline is on 0870 2424870.

Lawyers on trial to mind their language

Frances Gibb sees judges lead courts into new world of English

LAWYERS entered their brave new world of plain English and no Latin tags yesterday — with only mixed success.

Within hours of the start of new reforms, part of the biggest shake-up in civil justice this century, some had already fallen foul of the rules.

Michael Tillett, QC, opening his case, told Mr Justice Turner: "My Lord, I appear for the plaintiff in this action."

"No you don't," came the judge's swift rebuke. "You appear for the claimant."

The use of plain English is the linguistic element of a package of wide-ranging changes recommended by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, to cut down on the costs and delays in civil litigation.

But "Woolf Day" at the High Court in London was marked mainly by the occasional exchange of views over new terminology aimed at getting rid of centuries-old Latin and legal jargon.

As Mr Justice Turner was correcting Mr Tillett in the Queen's Bench Division, one of his colleagues in the Chancery courts became the first (deliberately) to put his foot in it.

Mr Justice Neuberger welcomed assembled lawyers to the "Interim Applications" court (formerly known as Chancery Motions) and politely warned them to stick to the Civil Procedure Rules (formerly the Rules of the Supreme Court) under which judges had wide powers to make orders on their own initiative in the interests of good case management. The language had changed as well as the procedure, he said, but nobody should feel embarrassed if they occasionally lapsed into the old way of saying things.

He then promptly asked: "Are there any *ex parte* motions?" instead of the new modern jargon, "applications without notice"

No one objected and the judge went on to hear a list of "interim applications with notice" (formerly *inter partes* motions) for court orders following the issue of claim forms (formerly known as writs) by the claimants (who used to be the plaintiffs).

■ A new procedure to speed up medical negligence cases was launched yesterday with the aim of keeping lawyers out of hospitals and doctors out of courts (Ian Murray writes).

Medical negligence cases currently cost the NHSmore than £300 million a year, expected to more than double over the next five years if changes are had not been not been brought in. These cases also took five years to settle on average, twice as long as the normal civil case.

The new procedure relies for the first time on both sides giving each other all the facts of the case before it goes to court.

Patients who have a complaint will be able to ask for their full medical records and the hospital will have to provide them within 40 days. An out of court settlement will be easier, especially if the hospital is prepared to admit a mistake and apologise.

Legal, page 39

MARTIN BEDDALL



Stuart Hall running an *It's a Knockout* competition in Hertfordshire for a corporate client. Television is full of weak imitations, he says

TV aims a Knockout at hi-tech games

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT



Eddie Waring . . .

IT'S a Knockout, the game show from a lost age of giant penguins and Styrofoam frogs, is to return to television after 17 years.

Channel 5 executives believe that the show, which relied on slapstick humour and the ritual humiliation of its contestants, is the perfect antidote to the sophistication of electronic computer games.

Stuart Hall, whose uncontrollable laughter added to the show's appeal, will return to provide the commentary for the £1.5 million production in the summer. Many of the original costumes, which included Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee and Maid Marian outfits, will be retrieved from a warehouse in Manchester.

In its heyday on BBC1, *It's a Knockout* attracted regular audiences of 18 million. It was first broadcast in 1963 and was taken off in 1982.

Eddie Waring, Hall's copresenter, died in 1986. Hall, who owns the copyright, has run a successful business staging the format at corporate events for multinational firms all over the world. He said yesterday: "It's high time it came back to television. Every time I turn on the television I see a weak imitation.

"The show plays on people's natural aggression. If you put a Great Britain sticker on someone's back, they want to go out and beat hell out of the Germans."

Prince Edward and the Duchess of York appeared in a royal version in 1985. There are plans to revive the international version, *Jeux Sans Frontier*, which was rumoured to achieve worldwide audiences of 200 million.



. . . co-compere with Hall

'Prepare to crash' alarm on jet was a prank

BY JOANNA BALE

A PASSENGER was probably responsible for triggering a false crash-alarm message that caused panic on a British Airways' jumbo jet, the airline said yesterday.

Cabin crew on the Boeing 747 flight from San Francisco to Heathrow had to calm the 391 passengers after a prerecorded message said that the aircraft was about to crash into the sea.

After the incident, cabin crew reported seeing one passenger acting suspiciously. A BA spokesman said: "We believe it was a mischievous prank and we believe a passenger was responsible. We have ruled out a mechanical fault or an accident by staff. We are treating this as seriously as we would a bomb-hoax call made against the airline. Our investigation is continuing."

Alarm messages are kept in the cabin service director's area inside one of the galleys on BA Boeing 747s. The airline spokesman added: "The message is loaded and ready to go. It's just a matter of lifting a lid and pushing the button."

The message told passengers to get into the brace position and to put on lifejackets because a forced landing was imminent. Several passengers became so distressed that the crew had to call for the assistance of a doctor on board.

Lloyd Pople, from Reading, a passenger, said: "To be told you're about to die is not a pleasant experience." Many passengers were in a state of shock, he said.

☐ Raymond Larmond, 42, of Luton, was jailed for 28 days after admitting illegal broadcasts on his Flava FM radio station. The case followed complaints by pilots flying into Heathrow that they had picked up reggae and dance music on their radios, Luton Crown Court was told. Larmond, single and unemployed, operated Flava FM from a flat in Luton for over a year.

He may be the world's most famous Scotsman, but can Big Tam sway his country's voters?



Sean Connery at the SNP rally in Edinburgh yesterday. An archetypal Scot, he is adored all the more by his fans for being grumpy, litigious, tight-fisted and having a strong streak of male chauvinism



Legend: Connery as Bond

Magnus Linklater says if anyone can help the SNP it's Connery

THE last time an ageing film star changed the course of an election was when Ronald Reagan stood for President. He had the advantage that he was running for office. But if anyone can pull off the same trick — for the Scottish National Party — it is the man they know in Scotland as "Big Tam", the former milkman from Fountainbridge in Edinburgh.

Sean Connery is simply the most famous Scot in the world. A measure of his popularity is that, when he was refused a knighthood on the advice of ministers, including Donald Dewar, Labour's standing in the polls slumped to its lowest point since the general election.

His status is now more than that of simply megastar. Somewhere along the line he has become an icon. No matter that he has lived abroad, in Marbella or Monte Carlo, for more than 20 years; he is still regarded as Scotland's favourite son. The fact that he is frequently grumpy, taciturn, legendarily tight with his money, litigious and, at best, cavalier in his attitude to women, seems only to have enhanced his standing.

When, in 1993, he was granted the freedom of the City of Edinburgh, the Usher Hall was packed to the rafters with ordinary folk who had come to welcome him back. He said a few gruff words, did a soft-shoe shuffle on the stage — and brought the house down. "Good on you, Tam!" shouted a cracked Edinburgh voice from the crowd, and the place erupted. How he has achieved all this is something of a mystery. Being a Hollywood megastar is not an automatic passport to affection. Other Scots who have achieved fame and fortune abroad have fallen out badly with their fellow countrymen for getting too big for their boots. There is a famous Scots expression, "I kent yer faither", which carries the implicit warning: however grand you become, I know who you are and where you came from.

Billy Connolly broke the rules by poking fun at his native Glasgow. The pop singer Sheena Easton is unlikely to be welcomed back after saying her Scottish background meant nothing to her. The jury is even out on the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, who is judged to be rather more fond of Downing Street than Dunfermline.

Despite Connery's long exile, his enormous wealth, and the fact that he sometimes seems to treat Scotland as an extended golf course, he has avoided all such criticism. He is seen to be genuinely attached to his roots, he clearly enjoys coming back, and he is still recognisable as an archetypal Scot. A streak of male chauvinism, a laconic style, a tendency to hang on to his money, and a readiness to use his fists to settle a dispute if necessary, have all added to, rather than diminished, his appeal. Those, for better or for worse, are red-blooded Scottish characteristics.

Whether all that is enough to persuade voters back to the SNP is another thing. They may well warm to Connery, but they are still more likely to decide the election on prosaic matters such as tax and the economy rather than the terse admonitions of their hero. His entry on to the campaign scene has come a little late, his words yesterday too clipped to tip the balance. And though the crowd, as ever, enjoyed the sight of Big Tam back on native soil, it is likely to vote with its head rather than its heart.

As one of those interviewed yesterday put it: "I'll definitely be going to his next movie. But I think I'll make up my own mind how I vote."

CAMPAIGN FOR SCOTLAND 99

Labour pledges better childcare

Labour outlined measures to boost Scottish nursery and childcare services yesterday. The initiative includes a "first steps" programme to provide education and health services for under-threes under one roof. It also guarantees nursery places for all three-year-olds by the end of the first parliament, and an expansion of after-school and homework clubs.

Blair 'lied over tuition fees'

Tony Blair was accused of lying over tuition fees by the Scottish Tories as the party unveiled a new campaign poster in Edinburgh. The Prime Minister appeared next to the word "Bliar" with a quotation from 1997 in which he stated he had no plans to introduce tuition fees. David McLetchie, Scottish Tory leader, said the Tories would abolish them.

Pointers to a proud past

The Scottish parliament should promote Scots words, says Sir Iain Noble, an Independent candidate standing for the Highlands and Islands regional list. He suggests road signs as one opportunity, with the Forth Bridge becoming the Forth Brig ("neater and shorter"), roundabouts "roundels" and birchwoods "birks".

QUOTE of the day

"Alex Salmond is looking increasingly a maiden in distress waiting to be rescued by James Bond. I don't think it's going to happen"

Lord Steel of Aikwood on the SNP and Sean Connery

today's AGENDA

David McLetchie, Scottish Tory leader, hits campaign trail early at Peterhead fishquay. Alex Salmond, SNP leader, in Dunfermline. Jim Wallace, Liberal Democrat leader, launches Highlands and Islands charter in Inverness. Donald Dewar, Scottish Secretary, is at Westminster for Scottish Questions.

Connery heads SNP rescue mission

Continued from page 1
endum campaign, when he stood alongside Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, and Mr Salmond urging Scots to embrace devolution. "There was a spirit of positive enthusiasm," he said.

But, taking a swipe at the stage-managed style of new Labour, he added: "The control freaks have blown that away and replaced it with fear and intimidation."

He also attacked the media, which the SNP blames for the party's poor showing in the opinion polls. "I have never in my life seen such shameful abuse by the Scottish media," he said. "I am ashamed of it and I am angry. I know the game was to provoke me. Well, it has succeeded."

Connery reminded Scots that they have waited almost 300 years for their parliament. "It is my hope that it will evolve with dignity and integrity and it will reflect the new voice of Scotland. If I was asked, who will win this election, I would answer, hopefully Scotland. The only thing to do is vote and vote again and I will be right with you."

Afterwards, as Connery stood with Mr Salmond on the conference centre steps, waving to passers-by, one audience member mulled over his final words. "How can he be right here with us?" she asked. "He lives in the Bahamas."

SNP activists spoke warmly of the performance. "He said what needed to be said. It's too early to write off the SNP," said one. "We're lucky to have someone like Sean to remind people of that."

But the speech did not impress political opponents. A Labour insider was dismissive. "He had nothing new to add to the political debate. The SNP is in trouble, with or without Sean Connery."

Braveheart sets out to capture the nerd vote

BAGPIPE playing will be compulsory, computer nerds will have a public holiday and the New Deal will be replaced by Ye Olde Deal in which jobless youngsters renovate castles.

This is Scotland post-devolution as envisaged by William Wallace (his real name) who is standing as an independent "Braveheart" candidate in Edinburgh Central and Lothians.

Mr Wallace, 37, a telephone engineer, is backed by Eidos Interactive, a computer games publisher, which will be launching a new game called *Braveheart* in June.

Incorporating imagery and dialogue from the film starring Mel Gibson, players take on the role of a famous Scot or clan chieftain and attempt to invade and conquer England. But players may cross the border only after they have defeated Scottish rivals and been crowned King of Scotland.

Mr Wallace's manifesto pledges also include abolishing taxes on computer games and appointing a minister for computer games.

Photograph, page 26

Be calm but vigilant, Straw tells minorities

By Stewart Tendler and Michael Evans

JACK STRAW, the Home Secretary, urged ethnic communities yesterday not to panic after the nail bomb attacks in Brixton and Brick Lane but told them to remain vigilant.

As Mr Straw described to the Commons the police efforts being made to catch the bomber, Scotland Yard detectives sent two emergency messages to every force in the country. They gave details of the attacks and warned any force with an ethnic community to consider ways of increasing their protection.

Mr Straw told MPs: "Any attacks on these communities is an attack on British people and the whole of British society. We will not tolerate racism of any kind, still less this abhorrent crime."

MI5 officers who have joined the hunt for the bomber were working on theories that the attacker or attackers could be breakaway members of the neo-Nazi group Combat 18.

Telephone calls claiming responsibility on behalf of the group had been made after both bombings. However, security service officers believe the bombers might be using the name of the group although they are not striking on its behalf. They do not think the attacks are part of a national conspiracy.

MI5 and police believe there are probably no more than 30 active hard-core members of Combat 18 but not all their identities are known. There are other supporters linked to the group and a fringe of people who claim to be members of the organisation.

Yesterday, a number of Asian peers confirmed they had recieved threatening letters from another group called White Wolves, which also claimed responsibility for the Brixton bombing.

Several peers complained that they had reported the letters but they were not taken seriously. When Mr Straw was questioned about the letters in the Commons he said he was not aware of them.

Detectives from the Yard's anti-terrorist branch are also studying closed circuit television footage from sites around Brick Lane to try and identify the bomber arriving and leaving the area.

The bomb was in a black Reebok bag left in the roadway in Hanbury Street, off Brick Lane. The bag was placed by a parked camper van outside a restaurant that was closed. Hanbury Street is not covered by cameras and police are looking at film from Brick Lane and a number of other main roads.

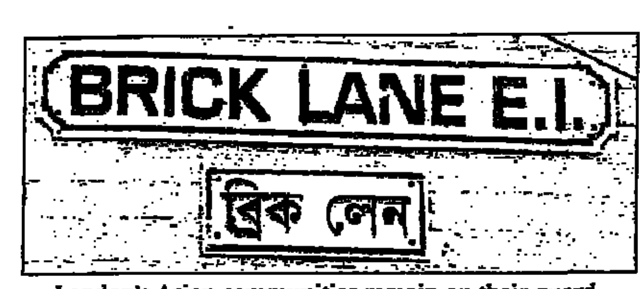
Deputy Assistant Commissioner Alan Fry, head of the anti-terrorist branch, said there were hours of film to check and the task was painstaking and slow.

During the day, rewards for catching and convicting the bomber rose to a total of £60,000.

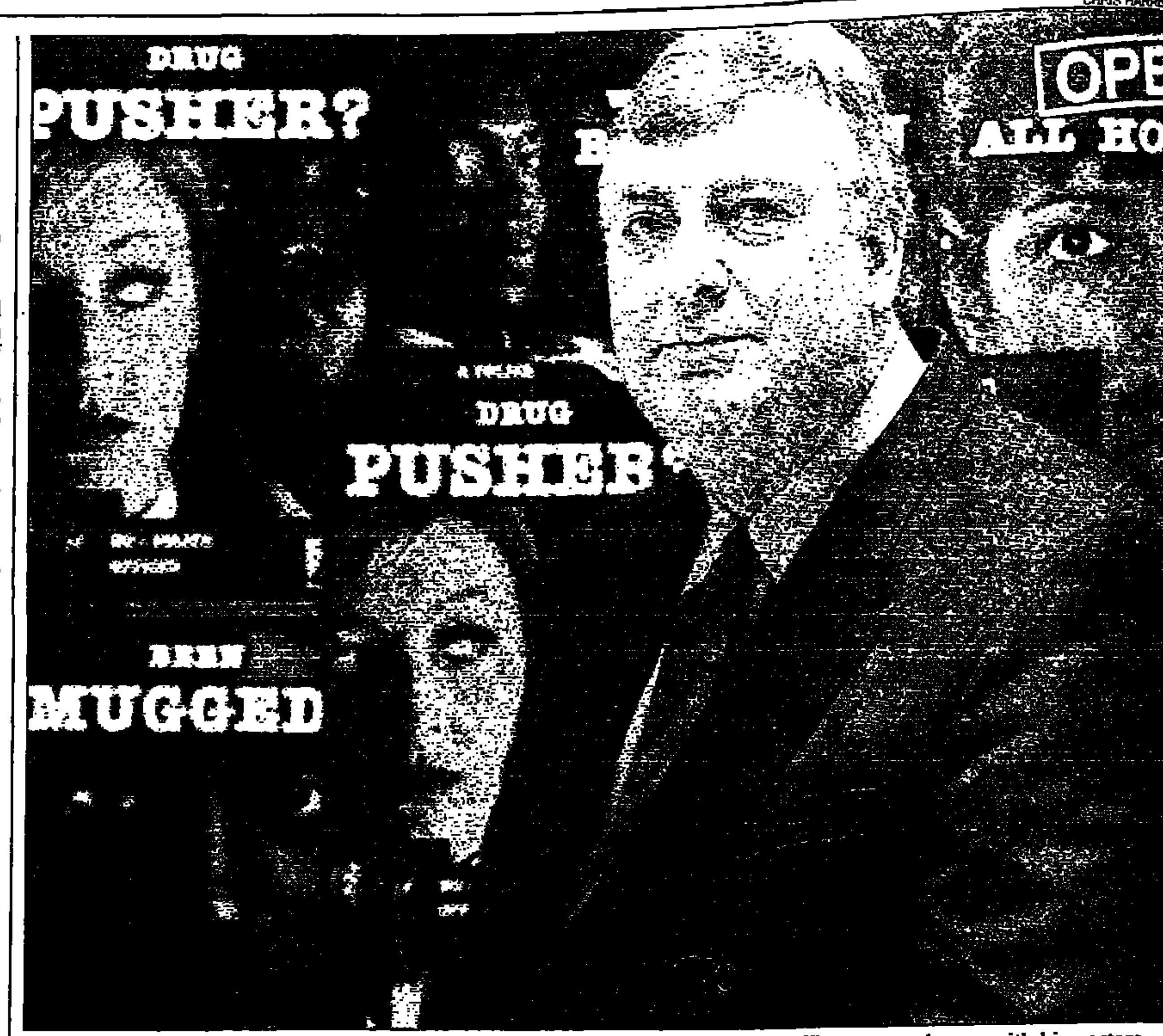
Bangladeshi community leaders in the area yesterday accused police of failing to protect them on Saturday before the bomb exploded.

Shofique Chowdhury, general secretary of the Bangladesh Welfare Association, said that police were "negligent" because a police station in Brick Lane was closed, resulting in a slower response to the bombing.

But Superintendent Rose Fitzpatrick said that there had been patrols on the streets and that another, larger station provided cover. She said there had been extra officers in the area and police arrived within minutes of the blast.



London's Asian communities remain on their guard



CHRIS HARRIS
Challenging stereotypes: Fred Broughton of the Police Federation. Some black officers are unhappy with his posters

Black police upset by 'race bias' posters

By Stewart Tendler, crime correspondent

A POSTER campaign using shock tactics to tackle racism in the police service began yesterday in spite of objections from black officers.

Produced for the Police Federation, which represents junior officers in England and Wales, the posters are similar to some used in a campaign last year by the Commission for Racial Equality. They were drawn up as part of the response to the Macpherson report on the police investigation into Stephen Lawrence's murder and are meant to challenge preconceptions. Some black officers recommended that the federation should abandon the campaign, but the commission backed the theme.

Designs drawn up by the federation include one poster showing a black man and a car and asking: "What do you call a black man in a BMW?" The poster explains he is a traffic squad sergeant on patrol. Another shows a black man and the slogan "Been mugged?" Underneath, it says: "Tell him, he's a police officer."

The federation has spent £30,000 on the posters and 25,000 posters were sent out yesterday. Chief constables have already indicated their support for the campaign and the federation hopes the posters may also be put up in career offices and colleges.

Yesterday Fred Broughton, chairman of the federation, said the posters were designed to undermine stereotypes. He said: "We knew it would be controversial."

But Inspector Paul Wilson, head of the Black Police Association in the Metropolitan Police section, said the association had been consulted and he was surprised the federation had gone ahead.

"We feel uncomfortable about this campaign." He thought the federation's efforts might be seen as a cheap gimmick. The federation in the past had never seen racism as an issue to address, he said.

FORCE RACIST, CHIEF ADMITS

The Chief Constable of Merseyside admitted yesterday that his force was institutionally racist, and promised to root out racist members (Russell Jenkins writes). Norman Bettison, 42, also announced the setting up of a task force with 15 officers to re-examine 300 cases from the past year to see if any was tainted by discrimination. In investigating racism, the community and race relations task force will listen to "whistleblowers" willing to inform on colleagues.

Family praise PC killed by van

By Helen Johnstone

THE family of a police officer who died when a van sped through a speed check, dragging him for a hundred yards, spoke yesterday of his devotion to duty.

PC Jeffrey Tooley, 26, was struck by the van, being driven at more than 50mph, before being dragged to his death at Shoreham, West Sussex, at the weekend. The officer, from Emsworth, near Havant, Hampshire, was carrying out a laser-gun speed check. He was wearing fluorescent clothing and carrying a torch.

His brother Russ, 23, a leisure centre manager, broke down in tears and had to leave a press conference after saying: "His happiest days were with the police fighting for justice, so give him some justice now and find them please."

PC Tooley's family had attended the press conference at police headquarters in Lewes to speak of his love for the job and to appeal for the driver to come forward. Police have begun a murder hunt for the driver, who is believed to have set fire to the van soon after the incident. Detective Superintendent Alan Ladley said tests were being done on a van found north of Brighton.


PC Tooley: was dragged to his death by the van

Labour anticipates defeat in local polls

By Alexandra Frean
Local Government Correspondent

VOTES WILL DECIDE 13,000 SEATS

More than 13,000 seats in 362 councils in England, Scotland and Wales are being contested in the local elections on May 6. The elections cover 35 English unitary authorities, 36 English metropolitan authorities, 237 English non-metropolitan districts, 32 Scottish councils and 22 Welsh councils. No London councils have elections on May 6. The last time the same seats were contested was in 1995.

THE Labour Party is preparing for a record low turnout and the loss of up to 1,500 seats in next month's local elections because of public dissatisfaction with corruption in town halls and indifference towards council politics.

Hilary Armstrong, the Local Government Minister, admitted yesterday that Labour would suffer more than any other party because it is defending its best local election results. It won 47 per cent of the vote in 1995, the last time the same 13,000 seats in England, Scotland and Wales were contested: that represented a 3 per cent increase over the 1997 general election.

Ms Armstrong said she did not expect the turnout to improve on last year's local polls, when only 26 per cent of the electorate bothered to vote. In some wards the turnout was as low as 10 per cent.

"Low turnout is my main anxiety. Very few people are aware that there are local elections in England. There is far more interest in the elections for the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly," she said.

In anticipation of a poor turnout, Labour is already planning to bolster its campaign for wide-ranging reform of local government. Proposals on the table include a new code of ethics and management structures for councils. The party also wants to introduce personalities by creating directly-elected city mayors.

She also suggested that electoral losses for Labour would enable new candidates to enter town-hall politics. "One of the problems is that we now have councillors who tend to be much older, often retired and not working, and mainly men. That is not good democracy."

Tony Travers, local government expert at the London School of Economics, shares that view. "The Blair Government believes in local government, but they want a different kind of local government from the one we have now. They would prefer one with lots of different people in it. As far as they are concerned, a low turnout would justify all their proposed changes."

The Conservatives, who will benefit to a limited extent from a low turnout, are trying to play the sleaze card in their campaign. Richard Ottaway, the party's town-hall spokesman, listed more than 50 instances of "sleaze, incompetence, financial irresponsibility" and "downright criminal activity". But some of his examples illustrate the difficulties of trying to tarnish all Labour councils with the misdemeanours of the few. His sleaze dossier includes Thurrock, where the Labour council had "unfairly targeted smokers" by requiring them to work an extra 2½ hours a week to make up for their cigarette breaks, and Wycombe, where the joint Liberal-Labour administration had located two park and ride sites close to residential areas.

The sleaze factor notwithstanding, the Tories are set to win 1,100 to 1,400 seats on May 6. In 1995, the Tories attained just 25 per cent of the vote, losing 2,000 seats and 61 councils.

Most experts agree that it is inconceivable that they will not at least benefit from "a dead cat bounce" upwards. The Tories' best chances for victory are not, however, in Labour boroughs but in places such as Bromsgrove and Ashford, which the party lost in 1995, but where a Tory MP was elected in 1997.

The Liberal Democrats stand to benefit most from sleaze in Labour town halls. In Doncaster, they are regarded by many as the only credible alternative to Labour.



ASADOUR GUZELIAN

Martin Winter on the stump: as a new candidate he has nothing to do with the "Donnygate" scandal, he tells voters

Doncaster's new breed disowns past

By James Landale, Political Correspondent

WHEN Martin Winter, a Labour candidate for next month's local elections, goes doorstepping in Doncaster, he gives voters a now familiar mantra.

"You don't know me from Adam," he says. "But I am as honest as the day is long. I am a new candidate: I am nothing to do with 'Donnygate'. And I think it is time this council had a clean sweep."

For Mr Winter, a 37-year-old former Rugby League professional and father of three, knows there is only one real issue for voters in this South Yorkshire town — trust.

How can anyone trust a town hall which has been so riven with corruption — and how can anyone trust a local Labour Party that has always controlled it?

"Donnygate" is already two years old but the end is not in sight. Some 31 people have been arrested. Councillors, former councillors, and even some council officers have faced allegations concerning expenses fraud, planning irregularities and overseas junkets.

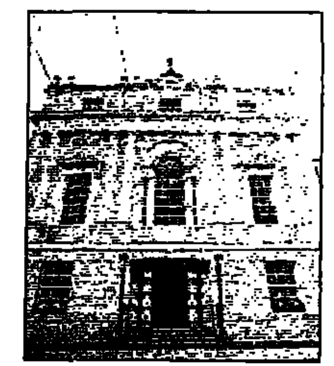
Four people have been jailed and one fined. Two more are due in court shortly. These cases relate only to false accounting charges. What South Yorkshire Police call the "more serious allegations" relating to planning issues are yet to come. The police inquiry has already cost well over £200,000.

The local Labour Party is in turmoil: the council is on its third leader in as many years and the district party is still suspended. Two years ago Labour had 57 of the 63 council seats. Now it has just 43, losses caused as much by party suspensions as by electoral defeats.

The Liberal Democrats sniff blood and hope to double their six seats in May. The Tories hope to add to their three seats. Close observers predict that Labour will lose half a dozen seats but retain control — for now.

For Labour candidates like Martin Winter, there is no choice but to face the mess head on. So he distributes disarmingly frank election literature: "As a newly selected candidate, Martin Winter has no connection with any of the past events concerning Doncaster council." Other new candidates insist that new Labour will provide a "new council, a better council".

The approach is being encouraged by Caroline Flint and Rosie Winterton, two newly-elected local Labour MPs, who are desperately trying to move the local party on. But with more trials and court appearances in the offing, activists are becoming frustrated at their inability to put "Donnygate" behind them. To the good, they say the scandals have made them work harder.



Doncaster town hall: a Labour stronghold

Some 21 seats are up for grabs on May 6 and all but one are held by Labour. But about half Labour's incumbents are standing down to be replaced by first-timers. Local party chiefs insist the retirements are caused by age and ill-health. Party members suspect a precautionary clear-out.

OTHER COUNCILS HIT BY SLEAZE CLAIMS

DONCASTER is the biggest but not the only Labour town hall that has been dogged by allegations of wrongdoing and bitter party infighting (Alexandra Frean writes).

While some allegations of corruption or impropriety have resulted in police investigations, in others the Labour Party has conducted its own inquiries and has suspended a number of councillors or, in some cases, the entire local party.

Labour's readiness to tackle these allegations head on is a mark of Tony Blair's determination not to let town halls become the weak point of his administration.

In 1995, the local Labour party in Walsall was suspended over allegations that some councillors took a free holiday at local taxpayers' expense. No criminal charges were ever instituted.

In Barnsley, two local Labour branches were suspended after allegations of nepotism in the selection of candidates for council seats.

In John Prescott's home territory of Hull, Labour's National Executive was brought in to monitor the selection of candidates for this year's local elections after a bout of ward in-fighting and allegations, which were not proved, of misuse of power.

Other Labour councils that have become mired in allegations of sleaze or party in-fighting include Blaenau Gwent, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire and Glasgow, Wakefield, Slough, Hackney, Rotherham, Barnsley and Shropshire.

Some Tory councillors have also faced allegations, particularly in Hackney.

Party politics force pair out of union posts

Students broke electoral rules by holding a birthday disco, writes Helen Johnstone

TWO students have been disqualified from senior positions in the Oxford Union after being found guilty of electoral malpractice for holding a birthday party two days before polling.

A tribunal ruled that Jeff Bell and Lucy Aitkens had staged the party to solicit votes. They were asked to stand down as treasurer and librarian respectively only days after being elected on March 5.

Mr Bell, who had been unopposed, said yesterday that the ruling followed a complaint to the union by Miss Aitkens's defeated opponent, Hatty Cadman, who has since been elected in her place as librarian.

The tribunal was told that 400 invitations were sent out for the party, with almost half not addressed to an individual but simply posted in students' pigeon-holes.

After a hearing lasting several hours, the union ruled that not all the guests could have been personal friends and disqualified the pair for "organised treating which was likely to affect the result".

The tribunal, on March 10, found that the party was intended primarily to increase the exposure of both candidates and to influence voting.

The students had also paid £50 for a disc jockey, breaking rules prohibiting money being spent to win support.

Mr Bell, a law student at Lady Margaret Hall, said that he and Miss Aitkens, studying human sciences at St Hilda's College, were close friends and decided to organise a private party to celebrate their twentieth birthdays on the same day, February 28.

He said that the first available date for a party at a suitable venue in Oxford was three days later, on March 3. "We provided documentation to the tribunal to confirm that."

Mr Bell now believed they were the victims of an old school tie system. "I love the university and the Oxford Union is a great institution, but, as I'm from the North East and Lucy is from Australia, maybe we did not fit in.

"I think it is a travesty. If the date of our birthday had been two weeks later, we would have held the party for the same reasons and there would have been no problem. It is a technicality which has brought us down."

He said that more than 100 people were at the event partly because he and Miss Aitkens knew a lot of people and partly to ensure that they were not left out of pocket.

Miss Aitkens had also been before the tribunal accused of organised treating on March 2, when the American talk show host Jerry Springer was a guest at the union. She was alleged to have "handed out sweets to members of the audience in a random fashion and in a manner which drew attention to herself".

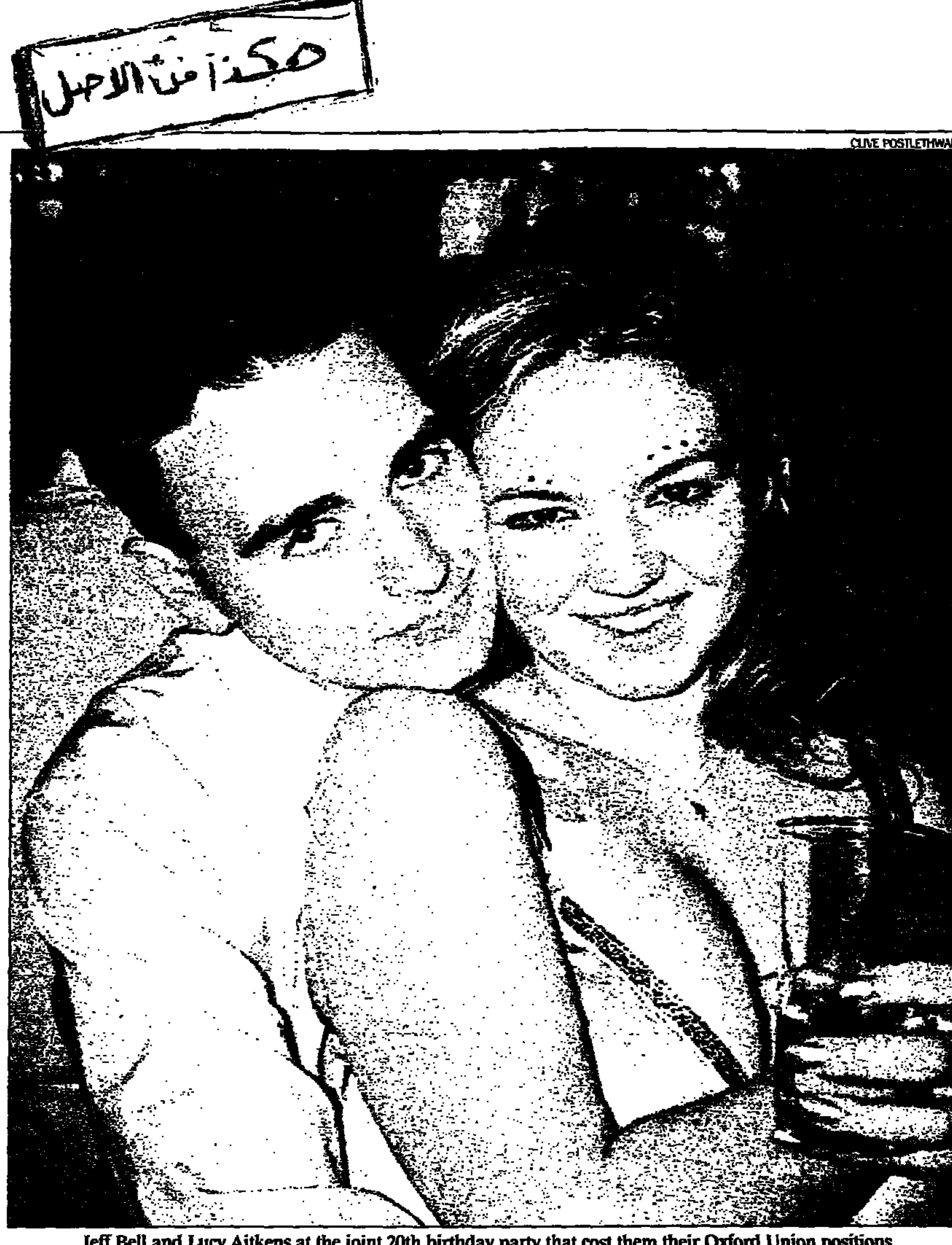
However, the tribunal found that, although her behaviour was flamboyant and possibly attention-seeking, it was not in breach of the rules.

Nicky Black, President of the Oxford Union, said yesterday that the two had been disqualified because it was found that they had held the birthday party with the intention of soliciting votes.

"They can stand again for other positions, but they will not be able to stand again for these particular posts," she said.

Miss Cadman, who also assumes the title of vice-president, said: "I felt I had lost unfairly and now the tribunal has ruled I lost unfairly.

"Several people have since accused us of doing something below the belt and there is a bit of bad feeling and I feel a bit uncomfortable at times. Obviously this isn't the way that I would have liked to become librarian, but I think it is perfectly acceptable for me to assume the position."



CLIVE POSTLETHWAITE

Jeff Bell and Lucy Aitkens at the joint 20th birthday party that cost them their Oxford Union positions

NEWS IN BRIEF

Three in court over shootings

Three men were remanded in custody by Rochdale magistrates after shooting incidents last Friday. Tunde Yakub Adetoro and Andrew Dennis are charged with attempting to murder four policemen, conspiracy to commit armed robbery, possessing an AK47 rifle, taking two cars and driving them dangerously. Mr Adetoro is charged with one further attempted murder. Francis Dixon is charged with conspiracy to commit armed robbery, assaulting a police officer and possessing firearms.

Driver jailed

A driver was jailed for four years by the Old Bailey for attacking another motorist with a baseball bat. Michael Bons, 36, of Middlesbrough, chased a family for five miles after an incident in the Blackwall Tunnel, East London.

Player charged

The Everton striker Michael Branch, 20, has been charged with being drunk and disorderly. He was arrested in Liverpool early on Sunday and has been bailed to appear before city magistrates on June 1.

Pets left to die

More than 140 animals died of hunger and thirst at Crewe Animal Rescue centre. Ann Stott, owner of the Cheshire sanctuary, admitted 24 charges of causing unnecessary suffering. Sentencing will be after reports.

£450,000 Chips

A record for a watercolour by Sir Alfred Munnings was set at Sotheby's in New York. Violet Munnings's *Horse Chips at Chantilly* was sold for £459,160. The previous Munnings watercolour record was £65,000.

Ostrich flap

An escaped ostrich was trapped when police in Hampshire deployed a spotter plane and used a net fired from a gun by a specialist officer. They were concerned that its antics could have caused a road accident.

Stars unite to fight world debt

By Adam Sherwin

FOURTEEN years after Live Aid, the world's leading musicians are uniting once more for a global concert to help the Third World.

Harvey Goldsmith, the Live Aid promoter, is gathering the cream of the entertainment world for simultaneous concerts in London, New York and Geneva on October 9. The event will be called Net Aid and the organisers hope that one billion people will send a message to politicians through the Internet, urging them to remove the debt hanging over the poorest countries. Michael Jackson, Sir Paul McCartney and U2 are expected to participate in the concerts, to be held at Wembley Stadium, Giants Stadium in New York and a venue in Geneva.

The concerts will be the last big gathering of music stars this century. It is hoped that they will include Bob Dylan, REM and Luciano Pavarotti, as well as celebrities from film and sport. They will be broadcast live around the world to what is intended to be the largest global television audience for a single event.

Bob Geldof, who put together Live Aid, which raised £123 million in 1985, is understood to be helping the project, but does not wish to take a frontline role. Geri Halliwell, former Spice Girl and a UN goodwill ambassador, may become a spokeswoman for the campaign.

Mr Goldsmith, who will announce the project at the United Nations in New York today, said: "The end of the millennium is the right time for a huge event to highlight the question of how extreme poverty can be eradicated."

Net Aid is being run in conjunction with the UN Development Programme, which provides funds to help countries to combat hunger and environmental damage and foster job creation.

Leading article, page 21

Claret route to health

RED wine helps to prevent heart disease and Cabernet Sauvignon does it best of all, says a French doctor. Jean-Paul Broustet suggests half a bottle a day also wards off dementias such as Alzheimer's disease (Ian Murray writes).

M Broustet, of the Hôpital Cardiologique near Pessac, in the Bordeaux vineyards, writes in the journal *Heart* that cabernet sauvignon, the main claret grape, contains the best antidote to cholesterol. This is because the vines protect themselves against an autumn fungus by producing large quantities of an anti-oxidant called resveratrol.

Resveratrol produces a high-density cholesterol which prevents the body producing dangerous low-density cholesterol. This probably explains why the French, with a high intake of fats and cholesterol, have the lowest rate of chronic heart disease in Europe.

Dr Broustet points out that the death rate from coronaries in Toulouse among men aged 35 to 64 is only 78 per 100,000. This compares with 348 per 100,000 in Belfast and 380 in Glasgow. The average drinker in each city consumes about the same amount of alcohol but in Toulouse it is almost exclusively red wine.

Residents at old people's homes in the Gironde and Dordogne who drank two or three glasses of red wine a day were a fifth as likely to develop Alzheimer's as non-drinkers.

Leading article, page 21


هكذا من الأصل

Chance call that reunited a family on way to Britain


Gentiana Zogjani, now reunited with her father, playing in Leeds yesterday

A child's joy reflects the drama of rediscovering her father, write Stephen Farrell and Paul Wilkinson

AS SHE smiled and waved from the steps of the aircraft bringing her to Britain, a young Kosovan refugee was also celebrating finding her father by the sheerest chance.

Thirty-six hours before her arrival in Leeds, Gentiana Zogjani, her mother, Hanife, and her three brothers and sisters were in despair. Her father had been missing for weeks and they had reluctantly agreed to be put on a humanitarian relief flight to Britain without him.

Then Mrs Zogjani, 33, telephoned her husband Bajram's brother in Sweden to tell him where she was going, only to find that her husband had just telephoned his brother himself, and was no more than a few hundred yards away from her in the Stenkovec border refugee camp in northern Macedonia.

He quickly went to his family's tent, number B172 in the nearby Brazde camp. This reunited the family, but left them in the terrible position of knowing that mother and children were booked on a flight to Britain but father was not.

They turned up at the Brazde gate at 5am on Sunday to plead his case with officials who drew up the list of 161 mainly women and children in a vulnerable position whom Britain had agreed to accept.

"I just want to get out of here, it is hell, we would go anywhere," Mrs Zogjani told *The Times*. Their hopes rose and fell as it became clear that of the 161 scheduled to fly out, 13 had not shown up. However, other equally hopeful people clustered at the tent where names were checked.

ON OTHER PAGES

Balance sheet 14
The next step 15
Libby Purves 20
Leading article 21
Letters 21

The Zogjanis' position looked impossible. But then, barely two hours before the scheduled 10am departure from Skopje, officials exercised their discretion and allocated Mr Zogjani, 35, one of the spare seats.

The delighted family were whisked through the registration tent to doctors who gave them a medical check and put them on a bus for the airport.

It was one good luck story among thousands of misery. A woman who turned up for the same flight with a man she described as her partner, but who was not the father of her children, was turned away.


Jehona Aliu: discovered member of lost family

Meanwhile, Jehona Aliu, the five-year-old Kosovan refugee who lost her mother when she went to the lavatory, has been reunited with a relative.

Remzi Berisha, 30, a cousin of her mother, Sadije, was found in another tent at the giant Brazde camp in northern Macedonia where Jehona has been for nearly four weeks. But the child decided to stay with Famire Cecelija and her husband, Xajvit, the couple who took her in after losing their own two sons.

In Britain, offers of help have been pouring in for the arriving refugees. Calls offering accommodation have come from as far away as Taunton and Oxford, and social services staff in Leeds where the Kosovans are staying have been swamped with offers of assistance.

An appeal for clothing by the Salvation Army to retailers in Leeds brought a donation of 40 sets of pyjamas and nightdresses from Woolworths and more clothing and footwear have also been given by C&A and Marks and Spencer.

Mike Evans, assistant director of social services, said: "We have had everything from cuddly toys and donations of money to 'Can I adopt a baby?'"

Briton outfoxes border guards

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

A BRITISH landlord drove nearly 4,000 miles in his family car, at one point speeding past armed border guards, to bring his mother-in-law from Yugoslavia to Britain.

Nigel Ashby, 42, picked up Koviljka Bursac and her son, Milan, 14, from the tiny village of Horgos, near the Hungarian border. Then he and his wife, Yasmina, 28, outwitted armed Serb border guards by speeding into Hungary.

He said yesterday: "When they recognised the British registration plates, they started shouting at my wife to get out. I just slammed my foot down and raced across the border."

Mrs Ashby became worried for her family's safety after Nato bombers hit a chemical plant near Sabac, home of her mother and brother. The family is now back at Mr Ashby's home above the Malt Shovel Inn, Coventry.

The remains of the last bridge over the Danube in Serbia, at Novi Sad. Nato missiles blasted it early yesterday, robbing the Serbs of a route for military support and a vital link with Central Europe

Nato shuns the chance to turn back tankers

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN LUXEMBOURG

EUROPE tightened sanctions on President Milosevic and his circle yesterday, but the Nato alliance conceded that it could not use force to police a European Union oil embargo and turn back tankers that were taking fuel to Yugoslavia.

EU foreign ministers extended a range of sanctions with the aim of hitting Mr Milosevic and his immediate entourage of businessmen and politicians. European sports federations were urged to refuse further contact with Yugoslavia.

The ministers gave orders for the EU oil embargo on Serbia and Montenegro to enter force by Friday. However, differences among the EU governments over the legality of the embargo led Nato to opt yesterday for a gentle enforcement regime. General Klaus Naumann, chairman of the alliance's Military Committee, said Nato warships would stop tankers in the Adriatic, visit them and search them, but they did not have the legal right to force them to turn round. This cautious approach reflected objections from France, Italy, Greece, Ireland and other states to the enforcement of a naval blockade against Montenegro, whose port at Bar is the main route for petroleum products reaching Serbia.

General Naumann said that the prospect of a Nato search would still have a deterrent effect. "I think we will see a certain impact ... third nations' ships will get very, very cautious — they will think twice whether they will take this route, because no one likes to be stopped at sea by a warship," he said.

Nato ambassadors were meeting in Brussels last night to draw up "search and visit" orders for Nato ships patrolling the region. Confrontation with Russia is still possible, however, since Russian vessels may be unwilling to submit to being stopped and searched by Nato warships. The absence of any international mandate to enforce a blockade means that Nato warships effectively will be powerless even to insist on boarding a tanker if the captain of the vessel refuses. In a sign of its differences with the EU majority, France did not even send a minister to yesterday's session.

Among other new sanctions are a freeze on EU-held financial assets of Mr Milosevic and individuals associated with him and their companies.

BALKANS WAR: THE BALANCE SHEET

MICHELLE LEONARD / REUTERS



A Kosovan boy in Albania enjoys the American trappings of Nato's Operation Shining Hope. Foreign aid means wealth for the destitute country

Albania reaps benefit of the war next door

The conflict is bringing boom times to Europe's most primitive country, writes Richard Owen in Tirana

UNDER the impact of the war, Albania — once the most isolated country in Europe and still the most primitive — is being catapulted into the modern world at a speed that nearly a decade of post-communist reforms have failed to match.

Albanian leaders will meet European Union foreign ministers in Luxembourg today not only to ask for more aid to cope with hundreds of thousands of refugees, but also to press for an association agreement with the EU, with the eventual aim of membership.

A massive influx of Western money and manpower over the past month to meet the humanitarian emergency and prepare for a possible offensive against Yugoslavia is already transforming Tirana.

Over the wail of Balkan music and calls from the mosques, the sound of English, French and Italian echoes along the Boulevard of the Martyrs, where for half a century the paranoid dictator Enver Hoxha held his military parades.

The legacy of his rule is still evident: Albania has the lowest per-capita income in Europe, with barely usable roads, barefoot children and subsistence farming.

In Tirana horses and carts vie with battered cars and vans on muddy and potholed streets strewn with rubbish. "Ten years after Hoxha we are not much better off than Somalia," said Sherif, a driver sitting in one of the cafés near Skanderbeg Square — named after Albania's national hero. "But the Americans will save us."

Hopes of democracy and prosperity after the fall of communism were dashed three years ago when protests over a fraudulent savings scheme turned into an uprising against Albania's post-communist leader, Sali Berisha.

Bitter divisions between Mr Berisha's right-wing Democratic Party and the Socialists — the reformed communists — descended into civil war and anarchy, frightening off Western investors and putting privatisation schemes on hold.

There were more riots last year against Mr Berisha's Socialist successor, Fatos Nano, who, under Western pressure, was replaced as Prime Minister last September by a fellow Socialist, Pandeli Majko, who was only 32.

Aid flight: another Nato aircraft arrives

For a correspondent who covered Albania during the riots — when the most common sounds at night were gunfire and breaking glass — the change in atmosphere is striking. All signs of internal strife have been replaced by anti-Serb patriotism and pro-Western euphoria. The fact that many Albanians only recently blamed the West for backing Mr Berisha, despite economic mismanagement and human rights abuses, has been forgotten. "With Nato and the EU, we might finally connect with history," said *Koha Jone*, the main independent paper.

Tirana's ramshackle airport has become a huge Nato encampment. Hundreds of Albanians queue every day to work as labourers as the airport is upgraded with bulldozers and earth-moving equipment. "We'll have to do something about these terrible roads," said Major Dan Baggio, the US Army spokesman. "They have more holes than a Swiss cheese."

Cafés and hotels, from the Las Vegas Hamburger Hotel to the Hotel California, have sprung up in Tirana to feed and house the thousands of troops and aid workers.

Paskal Milo, the Foreign Minister, believes Albania's future lies firmly in the West and points out that the country has reacted in a European way to the crisis rather than with a Balkan mentality. Albania has even handed over its airspace and territorial waters to Nato.

There is, however, a long way to go. Fred Abrahams, the Kosovo specialist for Human Rights Watch, who has been following Albanian affairs closely for six years, said that attitudes to the West had changed from paranoia and disillusionment to unrealistic expectations.

The Majko Government hopes to reduce inflation this year from 40 to 10 per cent. The country's trade deficit has risen to $700 million (£437.5 million), while GDP, at $3 billion, is only now beginning to climb back to its level before the collapse of the Berisha Government.

There are also complaints that the Albanians are demanding extortionate sums for inadequate accommodation, and that large amounts of Western aid are being stolen.

Prec Zogaj, an adviser to Rexhep Meidani, Albania's President, said there were bound to be difficulties as the country — with a population of three million — struggled to cope with the refugees.

But he added: "The paradox is that it has taken a war to stabilise Albania."

Editor flees to reopen paper in exile

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN TETOVO, MACEDONIA

LUCK shows no logic in abetting escape from Kosovo. Some refugees leave in fear, and lose little. Others wish to stay but are expelled, and their loss may know no boundaries.

Fortune was generous to Baton Haxhiu. The editor-in-chief of Kosovo's leading independent Albanian newspaper, *Koha Ditore*, was wanted by Serb state police. So sure was Nato of his fate that it declared him killed a month ago. Hiden in a cellar, with no means of contacting his family, Baton, 33, heard of his death on the BBC World Service four days after airstrikes began.

In an effort to close *Koha Ditore*, the Serb Ministry of Information had fined the paper £133,000 the week before Nato entered the Kosovo conflict, and ordered Baton to pay £41,700. *Koha* was accused of inciting national and ethnic hatred over a headline, "Nato: Now Just Do It", after failed peace negotiations.

On March 25 he arrived for work to find his office nightwatchman shot dead and Serb police looting the building. The blazing printing house signalled the destruction of Albanian businesses in Pristina.

Serb paramilitaries, unaware of his identity, robbed him, leaving him on the pavement. Assuming a new name he went into hiding, sheltering in ten places over the next 11 days. On the tenth day his luck ran out. He found help in a household that was then targeted by Serb police.

He said: "From a small window in the cellar I could see the streets filling with thousands of people being expelled. I saw one young woman holding a baby ... I ran out and said, 'From now on, you are my wife', thinking that as a couple we may be less conspicuous." She agreed, they found his car and joined a column of vehicles being herded by police towards Macedonia. Since arriving here, he has sought the funding to reopen his paper. Yesterday 10,000 copies were printed in Skopje — to the delight of Kosovan refugees.

"You can't imagine our joy," said Selami Zumeiri, 29, at Brazde camp.

"We have regained a link with Kosovo. It's very precious for us in the desperate situation we find ourselves in."

US angry over fleeting visit for prisoners

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE international Red Cross was finally allowed yesterday to see the three American soldiers taken prisoner by Yugoslavia a month ago, but it was only a fleeting visit.

White House aides protested that the Belgrade visit, by Cornelio Sommaruga, the Swiss president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, fell short of internationally agreed requirements for prisoners of war, as it was held in the presence of Yugoslav officials.

It was the first time an outsider had been allowed to see the three since they were seized in unclear circumstances while patrolling the border of Macedonia and Kosovo on March 31.

Mr Sommaruga had been given assurances by the Yugoslav authorities that a doctor and other Red Cross officials would be allowed to see the soldiers for a full and private visit today, in keeping with the terms of the Geneva convention on PoWs.

He gave no indication of the men's physical condition, but when they were last seen — in a video released the day after their capture — their faces were bruised and cut. "I was able to talk to them for only a few minutes, but it was a normal talk, looking into each others' eyes and warmly shaking their hands," Mr Sommaruga said. He delivered messages from their families.

Amanda Williamson, at the international Red Cross headquarters in Geneva, said: "It's most important for us to have a private talk, with no witnesses, in which the detainees can raise any difficulties they might have about their conditions and to give them the opportunity to send a confidential message through the Red Cross to their families."

An American demand for the soldiers' immediate release was reiterated by David Leavy, for the National Security Council. The United States says that they should not be held because they were captured in Macedonia by Yugoslav troops who had crossed the border.

Mr Sommaruga did not raise the question of repatriation because, under international law, PoWs are liberated only at the end of active hostilities.

Still, there was a sense of relief in America that the three were alive and apparently well. On their arrest, Yugoslav authorities threatened to put them on trial, but nothing more has been heard of what would be a violation of the Geneva accords.

Mr Sommaruga also met President Milosevic to discuss the return of ethnic Albanian refugees to Kosovo, but Tanjug, the state-run Yugoslav news agency, said that Mr Milosevic had refused to discuss the matter while air raids continue.

The captives are Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez, 24; Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone, 25; and Specialist Steven Gonzales, 21.



LARRY DOWNING / REUTERS

The Prime Minister, now back in Britain, was criticised for his warlike stance in America where he was said to upstage President Clinton

No 10 denies Clinton put brakes on hawkish Blair

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

THE Prime Minister denied yesterday that President Clinton had appealed to him last week to stop talking about ground troops in reference to the conflict over Kosovo, despite claims to the contrary in *The Washington Post*.

Downing Street sought to nip in the bud reports that, when the two men had a discussion before the Nato summit, Mr Clinton had told Tony Blair to tone down his belligerent rhetoric. Asked by ABC whether the suggestion in the *Post* was true, Mr Blair replied: "No, not at all."

Yesterday he told the Commons that the summit itself had indeed discussed ground troops. What the President and Mr Blair appear to have agreed was that all questions about the use of ground troops should be covered by referring to the assessment being conducted by Javier Solana, Nato's Secretary-General, of all the options.

In an apparent recognition that previously ruling out ground troops had helped President Milosevic, the line was to be that Nato would not discuss its military tactics and strategy in public. It was a position around which all Nato members, including the doubters, could unite.

On his return from Washington yesterday, the Prime Minister seemed not to have retreated at all from his pre-Nato position that the use of land forces against a "degraded" Milosevic machine could be contemplated. He insisted that President Milosevic had no veto on Nato actions, referring several times to the continuing build-up of forces in the area.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, took the same line in London yesterday. He said the decision to look at all options was a "sensible contingency measure". There was no intention to mount a wholesale invasion of Kosovo but it was "sensible to re-examine our existing plans for a ground deployment in the light of changing circumstances".

Mr Blair's hawkish stance in the United States made him the most visible figure at the summit, and he struck a more warlike posture than any other Nato leader. His tour of the television stations and the Midwest recalled Margaret Thatcher's hardline approach. *The New York Times* noted that Mr Blair's detractors at the summit were "wondering who crowned him 'King Tony'". The conservative Republican, Pat Buchanan, an opponent of US military intervention, derided Mr Blair as "the mouse that roared. It isn't going to be British troops humping up the road to Belgrade." Others used Mr Blair's stance to bash the White House. Senator Jesse Helms, the veteran rightwinger, hailed him as "the most eloquent leader in the Western world".

The White House insisted that Mr Clinton was not being upstaged.

Yugoslav moderate makes TV bid for peace

BY TOM WALKER AND MICHAEL BINYON

VUK DRASKOVIC, Yugoslavia's Deputy Prime Minister, made a dramatic tilt at peace for Kosovo yesterday. In a series of interviews, he proposed that his Government should accept UN troops in the province — on the condition that it remained part of Serbia.

Mr Draskovic, the former opposition figurehead who nearly broke the Milosevic reign in the winter of 1996, is now trying to force change from inside the regime.

He insisted yesterday that he had the backing of his president in advising the Serbs that they were deluding themselves if they thought that Russia was about to go to their rescue.

"Our destiny is in our hands to the extent to which those who lead the country have brains in their heads," he said on Studio B, a television channel controlled by his Serbian Renewal Movement. "I do not believe there is any sense in the heads of those who are invoking World War Three and lying to the people that Russia would be involved in World War Three. The people should be told the truth: we are on our own."

Mr Draskovic said that he had been driven to his outburst by the unity shown among Nato member states at their weekend summit in Washington. He realised, he said, that hopes of a split emerging in Nato ranks were unfounded, and that Serbia and Yugoslavia had to face reality.

"We must be ready for very urgent and very brave moves towards approaching a compromise and peace based on the Charter of the United Nations," he said. Such overtures would make it clear there would be "no independent Kosovo, no great Albania in the Balkans, and no Kosovo as a third Yugoslav republic".

Analysts were divided about his chances of success. But the cracks in the Yugoslav leadership may go far deeper than the disagreements apparent from Mr Draskovic's broadcast. Government officials, diplomats and Serb exiles spoke of seething discontent with President Milosevic, and claimed that there was a threat of an coup by middle-ranking army officers to remove him.

Dissident Serb exiles said that a circle of potential conspirators was ready to arrest Mr Milosevic for high treason and was waiting only for a signal by Nato.

Bratislav Grubacic, the editor of Belgrade's *VIP* newsletter, said in his column that "according to local sources, the interview is probably the result of his estimate that Milosevic will accept armed UN troops in Kosovo. Apparently, Draskovic is jockeying for position".

Mr Grubacic, one of the few independent editors brave enough to keep publishing in Belgrade, speculated that Mr Draskovic "believes he can win over a part of the police force and the army, as well as a part of the ruling party and of the entire coalition".

Most analysts agreed that Mr Draskovic was too powerful to be in danger of assassination. He has been the only politician throughout the airstrikes to court the West, and underlined that Yugoslavia was ready to accept most Western requests on Kosovo.

He recalled that Yugoslavia was one of the UN's founders and estimated the cost of the airstrikes at about £25 billion. He said that damage to the country was worse than in the Second World War.

MAN IN THE NEWS



Author rewrote history

ONE of the most charismatic Serbian politicians of the last decade, Vuk Draskovic was at first better known as a writer (Tom Walker writes). His novels dwelt on the inter-ethnic conflicts of the Herzegovina region and his book, *Knife*, has just been made into a film.

In an earlier nationalist phase he flirted with the far Right led by Vojislav Seselj, and the two were best men to each other. Mr Draskovic now leads the Serbian Renewal Movement that spearheaded the street protests of the winter of 1996-97 against the Milosevic regime. In his latest incarnation, he is a member of the ruling coalition.

Denver killers planned 'apocalypse'

Teenage gunmen wanted to crash a plane filled with hostages, reports Giles Whittell in Los Angeles

THE devastation at Columbine High School last week was merely the first stage of a broad campaign of terror planned by the two teenage gunmen, it emerged yesterday. They had hoped to kill 500 pupils and teachers, take others hostage, hijack a helicopter and then an airliner, and crash-land it on a major city, officials said.

The apocalyptic scenario was set out in detail in a diary found at Eric Harris's home at the weekend. As police prepared to question an 18-year-old girl suspected of buying guns for the boys, the lawyer who will prosecute any accomplices noted that although the plans in the diary read like "a horrible fantasy", there was little reason to doubt the killers' intentions.

"We now know that at least the first portion of those planned activities were in fact carried out," Dave Thomas, the local district attorney, told NBC yesterday. "Unfortunately, we also know that had a couple of the devices in the school detonated as planned, the death toll could have been much higher than it was."

A detonator was discovered attached to a large propane tank in the school's catering area last Thursday, supporting police fears that Harris and Dylan Klebold wanted to blow up the school.

The details revealed yesterday, while chilling, may also help to answer mounting criticism from survivors that police SWAT teams could have saved lives by moving faster against the gunmen. Thirteen died — as well as Harris and Klebold — many after waiting up to three hours for medical help.

The diary indicates that Harris and Klebold planned to attack nearby homes after laying waste to the school, and eventually to crash a hijacked jet, possibly on New York.

The unnamed 18-year-old due to be questioned yesterday was Klebold's girlfriend, Mr Thomas said.

Some of the guns used in the attack, which included two shotguns, an automatic rifle and a machine pistol, were reportedly bought by her at a recent gun show.

The parents of Harris and Klebold have retained lawyers and stayed in seclusion after being strongly criticised by the local sheriff for failing to spot warning signs of the looming carnage.

Bomb-making materials and the barrel of a sawn-off shotgun were "clearly visible" in one of the teenage gunmen's bedrooms and his parents "should have known" of the deadly plans, Sheriff John Stone said.

At a memorial service for Littleton's dead, attended by 70,000 mourners on Sunday in Denver, Vice-President Al Gore urged parents to regard the shootings as a wake-up call. "If you are a parent, your children need attention," he said. "If you are a grandparent, they need your time. If you do not have children, there are kids who need your example and presence."

Venezuela backs plan for radical reforms

By Gabriella Gamini
South America Correspondent

AFTER more than 40 years of democracy, Venezuelans have voted overwhelmingly in favour of plans by President Chávez to tear up the constitution and rebuild the nation, virtually from scratch.

Señor Chávez — a former army colonel who in 1992 led a failed coup — took office in January, vowing to rewrite a constitution that he said had allowed *"corrupt and rotten"* rule by a minority elite.

On Sunday Venezuelans voted in a referendum, and results released yesterday show that 92 per cent of those who turned out backed the change. And 85 per cent said they were happy with the President's wish to establish a constitutent assembly (replacing Congress) to draft the new document.

His most loyal support comes from the vast majority of Venezuelans, who live below the poverty line and are convinced that the old system deprived them of a fair share of the country's oil wealth.

However, critics of Señor Chávez say the poll result fails to give him the moral authority to make the sweeping changes, only 39 per cent of the population having voted.

The opposition had said that anything less than a 50 per cent turnout would make the result invalid. The populist Señor Chávez, known for his autocratic ways and a scant regard for democratic institutions, is accused of pushing the country towards a dictatorship.

Analysts say that while the opposition still argues that the majority of Venezuelans boycotted the poll, the President has a constitutional right to go ahead.

Venezuela's democratic past has been tainted by corruption scandals, with the decision-making elite pocketing most of the early 1980s oil boom wealth. Since oil prices dropped sharply, the country has become one of South America's poorest, marked by economic upheavals and a volatile political leadership.



France's elite seek a lovable image

From Adam Sage
in Paris

STUDENTS of France's most respected college have written to Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, demanding government help to end their reputation for arrogance.

The haughty tone of their letter suggests that the task may be beyond even the sweeping powers of the Prime Minister's office. The students believe they will achieve their goal if they are given less work.

This year's graduates from the elite Ecole Nationale d'Administration, which counts President Chirac and M Jospin among its alumni, blame the packed curriculum for their bad image with the public. They enter the Ecole full of enthusisasm "to serve their fellow citizens", they say in the letter. But this is dampened by a "course without vision or an educational project", according to the 1999 graduates.

Set up in 1945 to train France's brightest students to become high-ranking civil servants, the Ecole is floundering, say the elite rebels. They want a return to "its original mission . . . to assure a democratic access to the upper civil service". The means to this end should involve a reduction in the number of "repetitive tests and courses".

Critics say the 40 or so graduates from the Ecole each year are imbued not so much with a sense of the state's interests as with a sense of their own importance. Since a large proportion of ministers and industrial leaders are drawn from the Ecole's graduates, they are widely blamed for the poor performance of the French economy in the 1990s.



AFP

Archaeologists arrange bones of the Beast of Baluchistan on a sketch in Dera Bugti, in Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province.

Remains of Beast of Baluchistan found

The graveyard of the biggest terrestrial mammal, officially known as the Baluchitherium, was found by French scientists from the University of Montpellier and the National Natural History Museum in Paris (Adam Sage writes). Slightly resembling a rhinoceros, but without horns, the beast measured 15ft in height and weighed about 20 tonnes. The scientists found the remains of 20 beasts in Baluchistan. Philippe Taquet, palaeontology professor at the Natural History Museum, said: "The first bones belonging to this mammal were discovered in 1913, but no one has ever found skeletons as complete as these."

The beast lived about 50 million years ago, well after the dinosaurs who ruled 65 million years ago.

New York covers up mass exposure in Times Square

New York: An art photographer was hauled away in handcuffs after coaxing 150 exhibitionist New Yorkers to strip naked for a group portrait in Times Square (James Bone writes).

Spencer Turnick, who persuades people to pose nude across America for a series he calls the Naked States tour, was arrested before he managed to take a photograph of the volunteers, who braved chilly weather shortly after dawn on Sunday to lie down on the street at the "Crossroads of the World".

Mr Turnick, who has been arrested four times previously in connection with displays of nudity in New York and once in Paris, was charged with organising an unlawful assembly without the proper permit.

"I am an artist. I'm not your traditional photographer," he said. "I use hundreds of people to form abstract shapes in public spaces."

For this picture Mr Turnick, who remained fully clothed, asked his nude models to point themselves in the direction of ticket booths where tourists buy cut-price seats for Broadway.

None of the nude models, who were recruited through leaflets handed out at fashionable events, was arrested.

Ronald Kuby, a campaigning lawyer who is representing the photographer, denounced the arrest as part of a "crackdown on the quality of life and on naked people" by Rudolph Giuliani, the Mayor.

Earlier this month he ordered the arrest of a fun-seeking Norwegian who parachuted off the World Trade Centre.

France's teenage firebombers barred from buying petrol

State grapples with soaring crime as bored youths turn to arson for entertainment, Adam Sage reports

FRENCH teenagers in a high-crime area near Paris were banned yesterday from buying petrol in an attempt to curb their latest fad for hurling petrol bombs at vehicles and emergency services.

The decision by Michel Thenault, prefect in the Yvelines area near Paris, is one of a series of official attempts to clamp down on a youth crime wave. His ruling comes amid anguished public debate about the bored and bitter adolescents who have abandoned petty crime to engage in making petrol bombs.

The young arsonists are a familiar sight in suburbs around most French cities, where large immigrant groups suffer from unemployment levels that are higher than the national average of 11 per cent. They equip themselves with plastic petrol cans and decant the fuel into empty beer bottles. When firemen intervene to put out the resulting blazes, they are often attacked. Police officers in many regions have been told to avoid trying to arrest the offenders for fear of arousing local passions.

In Lyons, central France, more than 1,000 cars were set ablaze last year. In January a car exploded, severely injuring six firemen. Last week, in Yvelines, 15 vehicles were set alight. A gang of teenagers also fire-bombed a youth centre and threw a petrol bomb at a police car. In a neighbouring area another gang bombed a saloon parked outside a police station.

Officers said that it had been an ordinary week in the suburbs of Paris. "We must do something to stop this spread of criminal acts and safeguard everyone's security," M Thenault said. Yesterday's ruling makes it illegal for garages in the region to fill petrol cans belonging to anyone under the age of 18. Teenagers, however, will be able to buy fuel for their scooters, M Thenault said.

The move by the prefect — the Interior Ministry's representative in the department — reflects an increasingly desperate quest by the Government for answers to juvenile crime. Last year, when overall crime rose by 2 per cent, the number of adolescents involved jumped by 11 per cent.

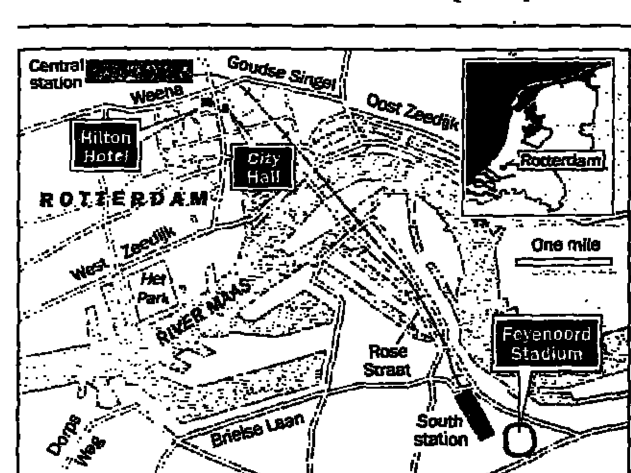
Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, has responded to the youth crime wave by announcing that his Government would fund 50 new young offenders' institutions and place 7,000 police officers in "sensitive" regions.

But the fire brigade is calling for swifter and tougher action, claiming that officers in the suburbs now work with "fear in their bellies". The targeting of firemen has come as a surprise because in France they also constitute the country's main emergency ambulance service.

Warrant Officer Jean-Pierre Jammet, a fire officer whose appliance was attacked in Janaury, said: "I would never have imagined that this could happen. We would just like to know why it happens."

Jean-Luc Chivot, a spokesperson for the fire brigade in Paris, said: "When youths start going for the ambulances, that's civil war."

Farhad Khosrokhavar, a sociologist who has studied the petrol-bomb vandals in Strasbourg, eastern France, attempted an explanation. "When firemen put out a car that is burning, they stop the show that people are enjoying as a break from their daily lives," he said.



Four shot as Dutch police fire on football rioters

FROM MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM


REUTERS

Police arrest a Feyenoord supporter during the Rotterdam riot that marked celebrations of the club's title success

POLICE in Rotterdam fired into a crowd of rioting football fans, wounding four, one critically. Another 12 people suffered injuries, including four police officers. There were 80 arrests during the rioting, on Sunday night.

A police spokesman said there was evidence that officers had come under fire before they shot at a group of 150-200 rioters, who were among the 200,000 fans in the square near the city hall celebrating Feyenoord Rotterdam's league championship victory.

It was the first time Dutch police had fired live bullets at rampaging soccer fans and marked a dark chapter in the history of soccer violence in The Netherlands.

"The world has been turned on its head when police have to draw their guns like this," Bram Peper, the Interior Minister, said.

The shooting also cast a dark shadow over Dutch and Belgian preparations to co-host the European football championships next year. The final is scheduled to be held in Rotterdam.

Police suspect that the rioting was planned. Several fans were armed and there was evidence that shots had been fired at the nearby Hilton Hotel, shattering a window. Officers fired several warning shots before firing into the crowd, Mr Peper said.

Hundreds of shop windows in the centre of the Dutch port city were smashed and guests in the Hilton threw themselves on the floor to avoid a hail of broken glass.

Earlier on Sunday, tens of thousands of people had gathered outside the city hall to cheer the newly-crowned champions. As the crowd dispersed, some threw stones and bottles at police.

Mounted officers repeatedly charged rioters, and water cannon finally broke up the crowd. As the rioters dispersed, they left a trail of destruction.

"Countless shops have had their display windows smashed and contents looted and most of the parked cars have been vandalised," a photographer said, describing how rioters tore up paving stones and hurled rubbish bins at police. One of the injured officers was said to have been hit by a stone.

It took a force of 750 riot police to restore order at about midnight.

Mr Peper said: "It is terrible that police were put under siege. And that they had to use weapons is crazy." He said a law was being drafted to give police powers to arrest suspected hooligans before a match.

"This was totally unacceptable. It was supposed to be a celebration, but this is the picture that people will remember," Ivo Opstelten, Rotterdam's Mayor, said.

The Dutch Football Association said the riots were "too sad for words". The association said it had asked the Rotterdam authorities for the names of those involved in the disturbances and was likely to ban them for two years from football matches.

Feyenoord supporters have long been associated with hooliganism, but the fans' club said it was baffled and ashamed.

"We had no inkling that this would happen. This has tarnished the name of Feyenoord, the city of Rotterdam and the club's supporters," a spokesman said.

LINKS

http://www.feyenoord-fanpage.nl/ — Official supporters' club
http://www.voodoo.demon.nl/index.html — Feyenoord team magazine
www.lvision.nl/~tvdb/eng/enghome.htm . — Dutch national team

Unemployed spies offered Vatican jobs


The Pope fears terrorist attacks at millennium

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Vatican is to recruit secret agents from Western intelligence services to improve security in the Holy See and protect the Pope during the millennium celebrations.

On Saturday the Vatican's official gazette, the *Acta Apostolicae Sedis*, said the tiny city state had set up a committee for security.

The Pope named Cardinal Edmund Szoka, an American, as its chairman. He will collate information on possible security threats when as many as 30 million pilgrims visit Rome for the millennium.

Vatican officials have been examining security for the arrival in St Peter's Square next Sunday of hundreds of thousands of people who will witness the Pope's beatification of Padre Pio, the Italian priest and mystic who died in 1968. The ceremony is expected to attract 375,000 people from outside Rome, and is seen by Vatican sources as a rehearsal for the Holy Year — which the Interior Ministry says could lead to terrorist attacks.

The new security committee will co-ordinate the work of the 100-strong Swiss Guard, the Pope's colourful private army, and the 120 men of the *Corpo di Vigilanza*, the Vatican's uniformed police.

Retired members of both forces will help with jubilee crowds and guard against an attack on the Pope.

On May 13, 1981, Mehmet Ali Agca, a Turk, shot and seriously wounded Pope John Paul in St Peter's Square.

Franco Frattini, the chairman of the Parliamentary Committee overseeing Italy's Secret Services, announced that the Vatican would set up a counter-intelligence service. Its agents — former employees of Western spy organisations — will work with their Italian counterparts.

Signor Frattini told *Il Messaggero* newspaper: "They will have to be reliable and above all have an immaculate curriculum, because they will need to be trustworthy."

He said that agents from Sismi, Italy's military intelligence, and Sisde, the country's counter-intelligence agency, could not spy for the Pope.

"I don't believe we will lend secret agents. Italian personnel cannot be put in the employ of a foreign state, not even the Vatican. I believe the Vatican will be able to recruit and train outside operatives. The intelligence market offers highly specialised staff.

"Unemployment is rife among secret agents, especially those from Eastern Europe, though I do not suppose the Vatican will want to recruit former KGB or Stasi agents.

"Those people excluded, the Vatican will have to find people with an adequate resumé to have worked in the Western world. Those are the basic conditions for being able to co-ordinate with our 007s."

Intelligence experts at the Palazzo Chigi, the office of the Italian Prime Minister, would liaise with the Holy See to ensure the Vatican selected people who would not endanger Italy's security, said Signor Frattini.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Kremlin rocked by hotel blast

Moscow: Ten people were hurt yesterday when an explosion ripped through a hotel just yards from the Kremlin, spraying the busy Tverskaya boulevard with glass and debris. Police, special forces and Federal Security Service agents sealed off the immediate area around the Intourist Hotel, pushing back crowds of office workers, tourists and journalists. Although officials at the scene refused to comment on the blast, a Moscow police spokeswoman said it had been caused by a 2lb explosive charge in a service lift on the 20th floor. Officials said that President Yeltsin was not in the Kremlin at the time of the blast, which one parliamentary aide said was audible in the nearby Duma. *(AFP)*

New Indian election

President Narayanan dissolved India's lower house of parliament, paving the way for a third general election in three years after the failure of the main opposition Congress party to form a new government (Michael Binyon writes). The order came hours after the outgoing Hindu nationalist Government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee called for a dissolution. On Sunday Sonia Gandhi, the Congress party leader, ruled out a minority government with the understanding of other opposition parties.

Cairo frees militants

Nicosia: Egypt has freed more than 1,000 Islamic militants in the biggest such prisoner release since fundamentalists launched an armed campaign to topple President Mubarak's pro-Western Government seven years ago (Michael Theodoulou writes). All were members of al-Gamaa al-Islamiya, the Islamic group that said last month that it was halting all armed operations. Defence lawyers welcomed the move as a conciliatory gesture that would help to reduce tension and violence.

Pay rise for Euro MPs

Luxembourg: British MEPs will enjoy a £3,000 annual pay rise under an accord by European Union ministers that aims to clean up the gravy-train image of the European Parliament (Charles Bremner writes). The ministers set a standard annual salary of £47,700, ending the system by which members received the same as MPs in their national legislatures. The sum is about £3,000 higher than for a member of the House of Commons. The package also restricts their expenses claims.

Palestinian 'UDI' talks

Jerusalem: The Palestinian Central Council will begin a session in Gaza today to decide whether to implement earlier threats by Yassir Arafat to declare an independent Palestinian state on May 4, the end of the five-year autonomy period agreed at Oslo (Christopher Walker writes). Mr Arafat's supporters were under international Israeli pressure to defer the decision, at least until after the Israeli election on May 17, and possibly for months longer, to allow the stalled peace talks a new chance.

Pavarotti tax bill

Rome: Luciano Pavarotti owes the Italian tax authorities about £1.5 million, according to a Finance Ministry report. Magistrates rejected an appeal by the tenor, who insisted that his main residence was in Monaco. They said the address in Monte Carlo was only a formal one and could not accommodate the singer's entire family, who, the ministry said, lived in the northern Italian town of Modena. *(AFP)*

Berezovsky charged



Moscow: Boris Berezovsky, the tycoon with business links to President Yeltsin's daughter, has been charged with money laundering and barred from leaving the capital while under investigation. Mr Berezovsky, left, at the prosecutor's office, is accused of smuggling hard-currency profits from Aeroflot to a shell company he had set up in Switzerland. *(AFP)*

She could have been your sister

Grace Bradberry on why the death of Jill Dando has affected so many people

A brutal death is always shocking. But Jill Dando's is shocking in the way that the violent death of a neighbour would be, or the arrest of the local vicar for armed robbery. She was successful precisely because you felt that she could have been your sister or your best friend; and therein lies the reason so many feel so affected by her murder — it is utterly unlikely and disturbingly close to home.

"She was extraordinary in her ordinariness," was how Leslie Fake, the chairman of Weston Hospicecare, put it yesterday, and that view has been repeated, in different words, by friends and colleagues alike. "A very uncomplicated star," was Alan Yentob's tribute. "A natural human being," said the TV producer Chris Denham, adding that Dando was the perfect dinner party guest. Hundreds of thousands of people around the country could imagine having Dando to dinner. Hundreds of thousands more could imagine dropping round to borrow a cup of sugar from her. In one survey she was voted the neighbour the British public would most like to have.

So we all understood when John Humphrys yesterday described himself as "inarticulate" with shock. "It's the oldest cliché in the book, but she just was an ordinary person," he added. "She wasn't carried away by her fame. Too many people, if they are on the box often enough, start to believe in their own publicity. It didn't happen to Jill." There was something vaguely incongruous about the appearance of Kate Adie, the hotshot reporter, being dispatched to Dando's street yesterday.

She was murdered in the doorway of her home in Fulham, southwest London, and found by a neighbour. Another neighbour thought that the killing must have taken place as she was hosting a coffee morning. However chi-chi Fulham may be (and Dando lived in the suburban part, not the starry bit), it is a *neighbourly* neighbourhood. You would never have imagined Jill Dando moving into a loft in Clerkenwell, a portered flat in Kensington or a stronghold on the Wentworth Estate — although she had been successful enough to afford any of those places (she was reported to have signed a £500,000 two-year deal with the BBC).

"I don't lead a very showbizzy life," she admitted in a recent interview with *Hello!* magazine. She did not employ a secretary to answer her mail. She enjoyed the cinema and shopping. She liked to go out to dinner with friends. She had met her fiancé Alan Farthing, a gynaecologist, through friends — not at a celebrity party, an establishment dinner or the home of some rich and famous acquaintance. Colleagues gave testimony to how much in love with him she was, how thrilled by the prospect of their forthcoming wedding. Yes, she was goodlooking: Nick Ross, with whom she co-presented *Crimewatch UK*, says that she turned heads wherever they went, but her looks were somehow ordinary, too.

> She was like most of us, rather cautious at heart

Condolence books are being opened at the BBC and the switchboards have been flooded with calls from the public — echoing "the people's" response to the death of another "ordinary star", Diana, Princess of Wales. Part of this feeling no doubt comes down to the length of time that both women spent in our living rooms, smiling at us from a box in the corner. Dando fronted some of the BBC's most popular programmes — not only *Crimewatch UK*, but also *Breakfast Time*, the *Six O'Clock News* and the *Holiday* show, which she left after seven years, tired of touring the world. To publicise her latest project — presenting BBC1's *Antiques Inspectors* — she dressed in black leather for the cover of *Radio Times*. The pictures caused a ripple of pleasurable astonishment. She was talked into it, you surmise — though there is no proof of this, and Dando certainly had gumption.

A bespectacled and serious schoolgirl, Dando had the kind of protected, provincial upbringing that lots of people (myself included) enjoyed — but which somehow isn't fashionable, or even usual, among the metropolitan media elite. She grew up in the seaside town of Weston-super-Mare and, though she was given a life-saving heart operation at the age of three, the rest of her early life was unremarkable. Out of school her social life centred on the church youth group. Until she was 22 she had not even been abroad.

She was only 24 when her mother, to whom she had been incredibly close, died of leukaemia. She once admitted that had her mother still been alive — such was the bond — that she might never have accepted her first job in London. It was there that her life really took off. She lived with her *Breakfast News* boss, 52-year-old Bob Wheaton, for six years until the relationship ended in January 1997. The catalyst was a holiday romance with a game-warden named Simon Basil, whom she met on a safari for the *Holiday* programme. She said the romance marked a more go-getting phase in her life. Although Dando reaped the rewards we associate with risk-taking, she was, in fact —like most of the rest of us — rather cautious at heart.

The absence of outrage provoked some commentators to describe her as bland. Last year a tabloid staged a debate between two writers, with one insisting that she could barely distinguish Dando from Sophie Rhys-Jones (a common comparison that irritated the television presenter), and the other, a man, comparing her to the hearty heroines of John Betjeman's poems. Betjeman was *the* poet of middle-class, suburban England, which is so appropriate because among this constituency Dando was everything you could wish for in a public figure: beautiful, warm, trustworthy, unpretentious. Viewers believed what Nicholas Witchell yesterday confirmed: "The person you saw on screen was the same as the person off screen." That was part of the reason for her success. In 1997 she was voted BBC Personality of the Year. No one was surprised when she was widely predicted to be the BBC's millennium night presenter.

Yet the question that comes to mind when you think of Dando's death is not "how could this happen to such a famous, successful person?" but "how could this happen to someone like us, in a street like ours?". Whatever nightmares we might have experienced after watching Dando and Ross on *Crimewatch UK*, most non-domestic murders happen to young working-class men. They occur on drug-ridden housing estates, or outside the rougher pubs and nightclubs. They don't happen to Jill Dando in Fulham.



Jill Dando, the television presenter, who was murdered yesterday: "The person you saw on screen was the same as the person off screen. That lack of affectation came through"



Dando with her fiancé Alan Farthing

The struggle to beat a cycle of violence

Even during war Kosovo's children must have rights, says Grace Bradberry

Ismail Zakuti spends his days playing basketball on a patch of ground close to the gates at Brazde camp. In his home town of Pristina he witnessed beatings, saw young men led away by the Serb police, and came across the bodies of three men lying murdered in a garage. He is only 15. This is still his childhood — or should be.

So far the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) has not tried to recruit him — but it might find a willing soldier. "I would prefer to be out there fighting myself, liberating Kosovo, though we all appreciate Nato's help," he says.

Boys like Ismail will need more than food, shelter and running water in the months ahead. There is a tendency to think of the Kosovan refugees as "safe" once they are at the "holding camps", run by non-government organisations. But children in particular have needs that go well beyond the physical. They also have rights.

Disaffected boys could become a serious problem in the camps, believes David Shearer, an operations manager with the charity Save the Children UK, which is running projects in Macedonia and Albania.

"This isn't Africa. These people have had houses and cars and jobs," he says. "Now they've got nothing. It's only a matter of time before they become very politicised. The boys will be the biggest problem. If the KLA starts infiltrating, there could be dozens, even hundreds, slipping out of the camps at night."

Yesterday Save the Children launched a new campaign — Save the Children from Violence — demanding greater international protection for children caught up in conflict. Some of the aims are global: the charity wants an end to the use of child soldiers; it wants children to have the chance to learn and play; and it wants children separated in conflict to be reunited with relatives from their own communities.

Two other aims are closer to home: it wants an end to the physical punishment of children and to tackle the poverty which the charity believes leads to violence. Most important of all, the organisers of the campaign want to jog us out of our collective complacency.

That children have rights beyond food and shelter was one of the basic beliefs of Eglantyne Jebb, the founder of Save the Children. She established the charity in 1919, after she witnessed the suffering of children in the aftermath of the Balkan War and the First World War. "Every war is a war against the child," she said afterwards. In 1923 she published a document called *The Rights of the Child*, which became enshrined in the 1989 United Nations convention on the rights of the child.

Among other things the convention guarantees children a good education, leisure activities and an adequate standard of living. These might be difficult to achieve in Africa, but when I set out for Macedonia, accompanying Mike Aaronson, director-general of Save the Children, I assumed that these aims would be relatively easy to accomplish in Europe. Not so.

Rather than running camps in the region, the charity is engaged in projects which include tracing children and parents who have become separated (in which is specialises), distributing "family packs" to refugees living outside the camps, and providing medical aid in the region. All these programmes were going well.

Yet every refugee child I spoke to mentioned school as the thing they really missed from their former lives. The charity has recruited 20 teachers from among the refugees, it has an education programme — but it has no tent in which to set up class.

For that it is reliant on the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the lead agency. The UNHCR is still struggling to provide tents for the influx of refugees, and appears to be facing obstruction from the Macedonian authorities.

Gazing round at the desolate faces in one of the smaller camps, Mike Aaronson says: "There's a lack of imagination being shown here. The Macedonians are being allowed to dictate what happens to these refugees. But these are people with certain rights. The Macedonian Government has signed all the conventions — it needs to be reassured that it won't be left with the burden."

However, turning the words of conventions into a reality in the lives of Kosovan refugees will take an act of will on the part of countries throughout Europe.

How to tape obesity's measure

MEDICINE CHEST
DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

People who worry about their weight have made a trip to the bathroom scales the second most urgent task each morning. There is now a simpler regime and a tape measure is all that is needed.

Once the girth of the waist is known doctors should have an immediate idea whether they are dealing with a problem of obesity and, if so, how bad it is. A few years ago, doctors were apt to measure waist and hip girth and the ratio of the two was found to reveal any obesity and therefore a likelihood of developing the diseases associated with it. However, patients looked rather surprised when their, possibly previously remote, doctor went down like a tailor on his or her knees, produced a tape measure and recorded the size of their tummy and bottom.

It has now been shown that a simple waist measurement is all that is needed to assess obesity. Women should have a waist measurement of not more than 32in (80cm) and men 37in (94cm). As long as they keep within these parameters, they don't have to worry too much about having pudding. Doctors will start to get concerned about a female patient if her waist measurement reaches 35in (88cm) or a man has a waistband of 40in (102cm) or above.

Doctors good at mental arithmetic still like to work out the BMI (the body mass index), which is calculated by dividing the patient's weight in kilograms by his or her height in metres squared. If the BMI is more than 25, the patient has exceeded the recommended calculation and is considered overweight, if more than 30, he or she is technically obese and if the figure is more than 40, grossly obese.

Professor Michael Lean, Professor of Human Nutrition at Glasgow University, has written a book *Clinical Handbook of Weight Management* which, although it includes all the science of nutrition, is admirably concise and easy to understand. It is intended for health professionals but it would supply any interested lay person with the facts and figures behind any campaign to lose weight and explains the reasons why doctors are so concerned about excessive weight.

Professor Lean makes the very important point that in Western society the aspiration of the great majority of people, male and female, is to be thin. If they are overweight, they are not only depressed about being fatter than their contemporaries, but have a sense of failure because they have tried to take their weight in hand and have dismally capitulated at the sight of cream cakes. Conversely, in parts of West Africa, it is still smart for men to be lean, but women are admired for their obesity, even gross obesity. There are television advertising campaigns extolling the fattening virtues of one sweetened soft drink as opposed to another.

Doctors confronted by a seriously overweight patient think in terms of the increased mortality from cardiovascular causes, in particular a rise in blood pressure which carries with it the greater likelihood of strokes, coronary thromboses, an enlarged heart and eventually, heart failure.

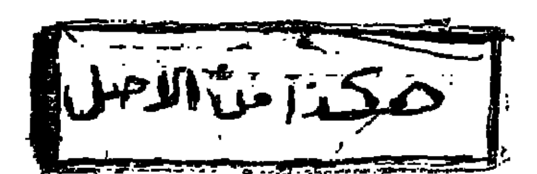
The doctors will also worry about other conditions which are associated with obesity, in particular non-insulin dependent diabetes, so-called Type 2 diabetes which can be responsible for so much ill-health in later life. Other problems of being overweight may not be as life-threatening but can cause arthritic knees, less often hips, breathlessness, incontinence, infertility and menstrual irregularity and, if the patient has any coronary heart disease, angina.

A new drug, Xenical, is available for the appreciably overweight or those who, if merely overweight, already have health problems. It is likely to work only if a patient has the strength of will to cut his or her fat intake. It will transform drug therapy in obesity even though the history of drugs in the treatment of the overweight has been both disappointing and dangerous.

Medication can have only a very limited use when dieting has failed. It is to be expected that Xenical will be the treatment of choice for those who cannot adapt their lifestyle and will thereby improve life expectation. Xenical is effective because it prevents the absorption of fat and, naturally enough, if fat is not absorbed it cannot contribute calories to increase the waistband.

Fat is essential for the absorption of some vitamins and in some cases additional vitamins may be needed. The excretion of additional fat may cause "tummy upsets" and sore perianal skin. This encourages patients to cut their fat intake and to have three similar-sized meals each day, rather than one heavy, fatty meal in the evening.

● Clinical Handbook of Weight Management *is published by Martin Dunitz at £14.95*



GEORGE WALDEN: MEMOIRS OF AN ANTI-POLITICIAN

The FO was worse than Yes, Minister

In the second extract from his memoir, **George Walden** describes the intricate euphemisms he had to learn as a diplomatic go-between



Walden with Pierre Mauroy (later Prime Minister of France) and David Owen: "Few Foreign Secretaries could keep the pressure as high as Owen"

DAVID OWEN

1979: MY FIRST day working for David Owen went as badly as it could. It began with a breakfast with the then deputy US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, whom President Carter had dispatched to London to confer over one of the hottest issues of the day: the deployment of the neutron bomb in Europe. The attraction of the weapon, so to speak, was that it did more damage to military personnel than to buildings. As I told Christopher when we met again years later, after he had served as Clinton's first Secretary of State and I had become a politician, that though it was never to be deployed, the neutron bomb damned nearly did for me.

The breakfast took place in the Foreign Secretary's official residence. Only Owen, Christopher and I were present. It was my first experience of working breakfasts and I was perhaps not as alert as I might have been. Though interested in their conversation, if only because my knowledge of nuclear affairs was so much less than theirs, I concentrated on the magnificent English breakfast — bacon and egg, mushrooms, tomatoes, kippers — a feast after my Parisian coffee and croissants. As the exchanges, so technical they seemed to me to be encoded, went back and forth — Owen, a former minister at the MoD, seemed horribly expert on the details — it crossed my mind that instead of relying on memory, I should be making a note, so as to discover at my leisure what ALCMs, SLCMs and GLCMs and suchlike might be (air, submarine and ground-launched cruise missiles). Deciding that scribbling at table in such an intimate gathering would be impolite, I cocked an ear to the conversation while concentrating on my breakfast. Not understanding what the talk was about, recording it would also have been difficult.

After a couple of hours' intense conversation, Christopher went his way. I had enjoyed the meal, picked up useful knowledge and assumed that this was the end of my day's work. I was wrong. As Owen, in a hurry to get to his Plymouth constituency, stalked to the door, where his wife and children were waiting, he fired instructions at me till the moment he got into the car. The suggestion seemed to be that I should send a top-secret minute to the Prime Minister, over his name, reporting the conversation, which he clearly saw as important, that afternoon. He emphasised that the discussion was hypersensitive and that knowledge be restricted to a tiny circle: the Defence Secretary, Denis Healey, and a handful of nuclear specialists.

> I focused on the great breakfast rather than the talks

It was the worst afternoon of my diplomatic career. I was alone in the Foreign Office. I needed to talk to a nuclear expert, quickly, and on a secret line. I looked at my telephones. There were four, two of them studded with mysterious buttons; scramblers, I presumed. I thought of phoning Owen in his constituency, on the pretext of refining a few details, then remembered that whereas I had a scrambler I could not use, he was unlikely to have one at all. When I went for a pee in the Foreign Secretary's private lavatory (I hadn't discovered where our own were), I studied the antique plumbing for a long time, as if the answer to my predicament lay in the configuration of the pipes. I returned to find No 10 on the line, asking when the Prime Minister could expect a report of Owen's conversation.

Having discovered who was and was not in the charmed circle, I called two experts in. Between us we reconstructed the sort of conversation about the neutron bomb Owen ought to have had with Christopher (the difficulty being that Owen was notorious for having his own ideas on policy). Eventually a minute was duly concocted and sent to No 10. I got home late that evening, fearful that my first contribution to serious diplomacy would bring about a transatlantic misunderstanding over nuclear weapons, and feeling faintly sick.

Under pressure you learn quickly, and there were few Foreign Secretaries capable of keeping the pressure as high as David Owen. Everything was done against the clock, and if you didn't stay cool you would go to pieces. The pressure on the private secretary came from two sides: ministers and diplomats. A policy recommendation would be called for and a Foreign Office official far senior to myself would "walk it in" to the private office, partly for speed, partly to impress on me that it was up to me to sell the line to the Foreign Secretary. If I pointed out that David Owen was particularly resistant to that line of argument, the response was that I would need to be particularly persuasive. The toughest diplomacy, I was learning the hard way, begins at home.

Once the Foreign Secretary had agreed — or altered — the line, sometimes after urgent meetings, you wrote a letter to the Prime Minster's diplomatic adviser in No 10 — at the time it was Bryan Cartledge: "Dear Bryan, the Foreign Secretary is minded . . . I would be grateful for the Prime Minister's concurrence . . ." Always say "is minded" rather than "has decided", which pre-empts the Prime Minister's choice in the matter, and never use English words when a Latinate one is available. In matters of state the agreement of the PM was not enough — you needed his concurrence. Then the line-selling would begin again, though this time, I was the seller. If my opposite number in No 10 rang to say that my letter wouldn't wash, the Prime Minister being especially resistant to that line of argument, well, I would retort, that is why the Foreign Secretary was relying on you to put it to him persuasively. Compared with the reality, it struck me later, as a comedy *Yes, Minister* was understated.

● *Extracted from* Lucky George *by George Walden, published by Penguin on May 6, £17.99; available to* Times *readers for £15, p&p, from* The Times *Bookshop, 0990 134459.*

A room full of fear



SADDAM HUSSEIN

IN 1980 Lord Carrington and I went to see Saddam Hussein. The Iran-Iraq War was raging and Baghdad bristled with weaponry. In the guest palace where we stayed a good-looking female soldier sat at the end of our corridor, a sub-machinegun over her lap, like a male fantasy figure in a bad movie. In Saddam's outer office his assistants wore knives as well as pistols in their belts. As we were about to go in for our audience one of them signalled towards my briefcase. On no account could I take it into the meeting with the President, presumably since I clearly intended to blow up Saddam, Carrington and myself. The more I argued, the more the tough guy insisted: the briefcase had to stay outside.

Under duress I acquiesced: there was nothing inside except my notepads and the spare toothbrush and extra pair of socks I had learnt to carry with me at all times.

The talks proved a memorable occasion, not for anything that was said but for the atmosphere in the room. In those years of continent-roaming I met some less than clean-living gentlemen: thuggish African generals, Galtieri-ish South Americans, drug-running Caribbean ministers, or dictators such as Ceausescu of Romania, the tic in whose left eye made you feel that, should someone mistake it for a command, heads might roll. Yet in terms of movie-style villainy, the Iraqi President was the star. Meeting Saddam was like making a call on Bugsy Malone. He and his entourage looked and behaved like the sub-Chicago gangsters they have proved to be.

White is the colour of fear and there was no lack of it in the room. Saddam was dressed in white suit and silver tie, offset by a missile-sized cigar. When he smiled, teeth like bleached gravestones appeared beneath the macho moustache. The pallid complexion of his entourage's faces betrayed terror, for the President was in capricious mood. After the introductory affabilities he frowned, complaining that the atmosphere in the room was stuffy — hardly surprising given the fug got up by his cigar. Instantly a minion leapt for a window and pawed at it fruitlessly: it was sealed tight, for security reasons, I presumed.

Askew: Saddam Hussein

The high point came at the end of the meeting, when there was an official photograph. The photographer, an Iraqi, lined us up round the still-sitting President. As he was about to take his snap the photographer paused, studying the President nervily: he had noticed that Saddam's tie was askew and was wondering what to do about it. Finally, not daring to ask him to straighten it, he put his camera aside, got down on his belly, crawled towards him and, while the mobster President smiled on, reached up beneath the white suit and tweaked the tie into place. After that scene nothing Saddam Hussein has said or done since has surprised me.

POWELL, BENN, FOOT

AS A NEW MP I watched the performances of many people on both sides of the House with awe. The least impressive, it seemed to me, were Enoch Powell, Tony Benn and Michael Foot — seen then as the three great parliamentarians of the time.

To them I listened with distaste. What struck me was how much they had in common. All were burning patriots who had done precious little for their country in their long parliamentary careers and, each in his way, a deal of harm.

Powell appealed to bigotry and was to find his spiritual home in the rancid politics of Northern Ireland. Foot and Benn, contrary to right-wing belief, were no Marxists, Marxism demanding a degree of intellectual discipline, but self-indulgent patricians.

All were essentially small men affecting the postures of great ones. All were fiery orators and intellectual mountebanks (Foot's book on H.G. Wells and Powell's cranky theories on the Gospels were laughed to scorn by expert critics). All were Europhobes and Americanophobes, stroppy Little Englanders who, in so far as they were known at all, enjoyed no status or respect beyond our shores.

All had quirky mannerisms and passionate convictions, and none of them had judgment. Powell, Foot and Benn, I reflected as I watched their stagey orations and listened to their histrionic voices, commanded attention because they played on Parliament's fatal nostalgia and its capacity to mistake the sedulously antiqued fake for the original. When there are no fish, as the saying goes, even the crayfish are fish.

TOMORROW

Travelling with the Queen: "Never display natural human emotions, such as impatience or surprise"

A striptease that costs too much

The Tories' gyration to *Hey Big Spender* is just embarrassing

Of all the curious places in which politicians now find themselves, whether on *This Morning* with Richard and Judy or a Thai massage parlour in Northampton, no location is as undignified as being "in the centre".

Where is this centre? It seems to be where the lowest common denominator and the highest possible public spending meet. And that is never the same place from one day to the next. The centre, like a dune in the desert, is a landmark that shifts as time, nature and the imprint of man do their work.

The centre certainly shifted between 1979 and 1990. First the Tory party, and then Britain, followed the footprints of one woman out of the wilderness.

Because it is not a settled habitation, the centre is, like the sands of the Sahara, an arid region where no principles can take root, no institution can be sure of its foundation, no banner can be firmly placed. For that reason, it is a particularly shameless place for politicians to be.

It is possible to be principled yet showy, and find oneself on daytime television. It is possible to be politically principled yet personally fallible and find oneself in an East Midlands jacuzzi with a lady of easy virtue. But it is no more possible to head for the centre and keep one's principles than it is to feel comfortable in a jacuzzi while fully clothed. The natural inhabitants of the centre are those politicians of easy virtue, happy to massage public opinion but never to challenge it.

In the past week, the Conservatives have attempted to shift towards the centre, directed by their focus groups and ditching their Thatcherite clothing on the way. Last Tuesday Peter Lilley declared that Tories must "openly and emphatically accept that the free market has only a limited role in improving public services like health, education and welfare".

Really? As Lord Young, Mr Lilley's former colleague in Mrs Thatcher's Government, put it last Friday: "The only discipline that really works in the long run is the market. Any thought that any government can run public services without the stimulus of the market is self-delusion. Ask any Russian."

But the Conservatives prefer to ask their focus groups. They treat them as showgirls treat the audience in a lap-dancing bar, seeking approval by discarding their old garments. But they have tossed into the corner, like an unwanted brassiere, one of the last things that gave them solid support and kept them respectable.

They have forfeited fixed principles for fleeting attention. By admitting, as Mr Lilley did, that his speech was informed by "all the opinion polling evidence", he lost one of the few clear advantages the Tories had over Labour — the view that Conservatives were people of conviction and Blairites creatures of calculation.

Mr Lilley and his colleagues hope, however, that the real change in public perception will be the transformation of the Tories into the party of the public sector. To which one can only ask, has Mr Lilley heard of a man called John Major? The last Tory Prime Minister, a description which is beginning to sound like an epitaph, spent his entire premiership trying to make the Conservatives look like the public sector's sugar daddies.

From the unveiling of the Citizen's Charter to the election pledge to increase NHS spending above inflation, the Major administration sprayed cash at the public sector. Almost the first act of that Government was a public spending spree intended to show that it cared. And where did it all end? In tax increases, broken promises and humiliation at the polls.

The Tories did not lose in 1997 because they failed to emphasise their commitment to the public sector. they lost because they debauched the public finances in pursuit of the "centre ground" and added to the pain by clinging to another fad of the centre, the ERM. The Tories won the four elections before 1997, even though opinion polls suggested that Labour was more trusted on the public services, because the Conservatives believed that small government and low taxes were superior to more government and higher taxes. Not just more popular but morally superior.

There are four types of spending. You can spend your own money on yourself. You can spend your own money on other people. You can spend other people's money on you. And, finally, you can spend other people's money on other people. Unsurprisingly, the spender in the last category cares least about how the money is spent. This is, of course, how the State spends money.

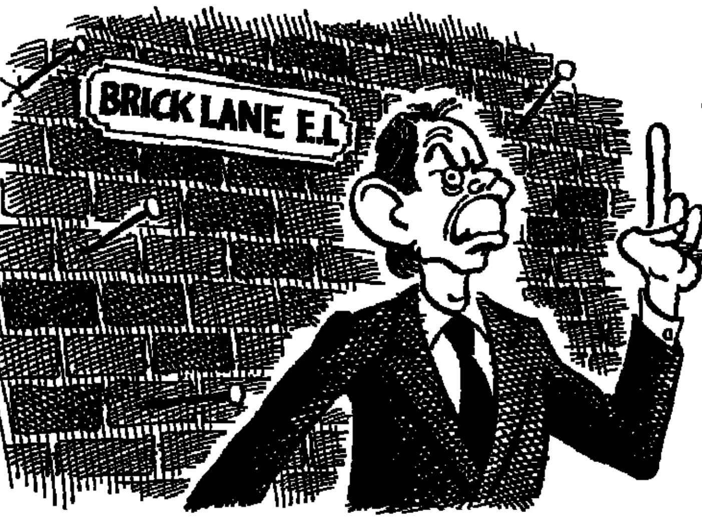
Michael Gove

Which is why it was mistaken of William Hague to have argued in *The Times* last week that the Tories can avoid seeming "uncaring" by supporting the state supply of taxpayer-funded services. If you measure "caring" by how much you take from the taxpayer to give to the public sector, then let's salute the biggest-hearted leader of 'em all, Uncle Joe Stalin.

Governments don't care, people do. By empowering people, as parents and patients, the services they care about improve. The Shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, promised last night that he would spend as much as Gordon Brown on health and education, but would spend it better. I am sure he would. But not as well as freer citizens liberated by a smaller state. As Mr Maude pointed out last October, "it is always the soft option to accede to every apparently worthy spending lobby".

It is indeed soft, and warm, to sink into the sands of the centre. But when the sands shift, where does that leave you? Unnoticed in the wilderness. Which is where the Tories will be until they once again explain why, and how, the State could be smaller.

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Welcome or be damned

Britain's reluctance to accept more Kosovan refugees is shameful

Four weeks ago, in a rant against the Nato bombing, I wrote that when it ended — or if it didn't — we hawk nations would find ourselves with inescapable duties to Kosovan Albanians: protection, support, resettlement. I said that if we want to emerge from this fiasco with any honour at all, we will have to open our doors to the refugees whose doom we hastened, and smile as we do it. These are our people now, and we owe them.

"Come back to that theme," advised a drily mocking e-mail from Kent. "You'll need to. Have you read our local papers lately?" I looked up what she meant: the famous *Dover Express* tirade about Romanian Gypsies, under the heading Scroungers Incorporated:

"We want to wash the dross down the drain ... illegal immigrants, asylum-seekers ... while Labour luvvies drivel on, we are left with the backdraft of a nation's human sewage." My correspondent also directed me to the *Folkestone Herald* article alleging that "Slovak" prostitutes sell their bodies for the price of a potato: "The blouses are coming off as refugee 'potato patch dollies' are winning their own version of the war of the undieworlds."

Local newspapers do not print such things for fun: they know their readership and get a lot of letters. In parts of Kent, windows have been smashed and walls daubed with "We will burn you out". It would be nice to think that things will be different for Kosovan families escaping from a widely televised hell; it would be comfortable to believe that the smashers and daubers represent only a tiny minority of yobs and that better-educated Britain will be uniformly generous towards the Kosovans.

But I wouldn't lay any large bets on it. Among my flood of correspondence lately has come a trickle along the lines of this, from a very prosperous address:

"You may moralise, Miss Purves, about our so-called 'duty' to refugees from this distant country whose people Nato is already trying bravely to help — but do we really want more of these women in headscarves, stretching out their begging hands? Are sentimentalists like you aware of how unpleasant it is to shop in Knightsbridge, with this constant importuning by greedy foreign gypsies with their brats?"

Altogether, it was a relief to see the touching hand-made banner at Leeds-Bradford airport yesterday welcoming the planeload of Kosovans, and to hear how Yorkshire is donating toys and clothes. Sentimental or not, the givers and flag-wavers are doing the right thing. In all the panic about logistics, nobody should lose sight of the importance of a visible, emotionally warm welcome to displaced people. Years ago I met an Auschwitz survivor who lost most of her family before she was 14. She seemed to have an extraordinarily optimistic outlook, and I ventured to ask why.

"I think," she said, "it is because when I came to Scotland in 1945, everybody was so good to us, so loving. I understood very quickly that the Nazis were just bad, stupid people. Not normal." Her stories powerfully conveyed that sense of returning normality and faith: of the comfort of home-made loaves and knitted toys, her new red woolly gloves, the clumsy pats on the shoulder from strangers "who would shake their heads, with tears, so I knew they were crying for my people just as I did". It is not just professionals who can help the bewildered new arrivals: banners and soft toys count, too.

Libby Purves

We have to be wholehearted, arms wide, and resist xenophobic terrors. Like the United Nations and Amnesty International, I am not particularly impressed by the British lead in this area. While Macedonia, virtually bankrupt, struggles to contain 140,000 refugees, the nation whose Prime Minister is the most hawkish voice in Nato has so far taken in 161. Meanwhile Germany has 10,000; Turkey 4,170; France 772; and Norway has already welcomed nearly ten times as many as Britain. Even Iceland beat us to it.

Ministers respond defensively. Clare Short snaps that it is our duty "to look after them within the region and get them back to their homes as soon as possible". A Home Office spokesman smoothly says that mass evacuation would be "doing Milosevic's work for him". The failure so far of America — that vast, rich nation — to welcome one single refugee of its latest war is justified by the claim that it is too far away. "Our aim is to help them go home."

Yet they are not going home, not for ages. Even if the undreamt-of breakthrough brings a peaceful new regime to Yugoslavia next week and miraculously converts the Serbian militia *en masse* to tolerance, much of Kosovo will not be fit to live in for years. The idea that it is sensible to keep hundreds of thousands of people trapped in mud, and squalor, and cold, and danger, and near-starvation just to avoid "doing Milosevic's work for him" is ridiculous. The party who arrived in Leeds had not eaten hot food or washed properly for a fortnight. The theory that this sad population must be kept physically close to its home is 50 years out of date. It is not as if they had to migrate by ocean liner: this is not the Highland Clearances or the Spanish Civil War. These people have already done the hard bit of the journey, trudging across the mountains. Three hours in an aeroplane seat would get them anywhere in Europe, and back again just as easily when (if) it is all over. A few more hours and they could be fed and comforted in Ohio or New England. If we can move bombs around to suit our "humanitarian" ideals, then we can damn well move some people around, too. The Macedonian Government begged us to weeks ago, as it tottered under the impact of an influx equivalent to one sixth of its population. "Don't send blankets," said its spokesman. "Send empty planes. Please. Fly them to Britain or America." It really was not an unreasonable request.

Yet our Government continues to behave with an ambiguity that it is taking me all my self-control not to link directly to a political fear of the xenophobic daubers and letter-writers. Despite the experience of Bosnia, it steadfastly refused the request from refugee organisations to keep temporary reception centres "mothballed" — as the Germans do — in case of such a crisis. It is four weeks into the war, but the two Leeds buildings now in use were found only on Friday. That does not suggest a commitment to compassion.

And what about the long term? Refugee organisations say that even though nearly all arrivals want to go home, it is necessary to behave as if they will not. After weeks in centres they need homes in the community, in "clusters" of families within easy reach of one another. Children must be found schools and adults taught English. "If they do go back, brilliant, that's a start in a foreign language. But they must not live in limbo," said a Refugee Council spokeswoman. Of the 2,500 Bosnian refugees to Britain, she continued, almost all expressed a wish to go home, and the Government spoke of "a couple of months". So far only 200 have returned. Their homes no longer exist.

This is the reality of the situation, and it is one that Nato nations must accept with grace, reflecting perhaps that past refugee populations have immeasurably enriched the intellectual and commercial life of host nations. But even if that were not so, the bottom line is that as this war drags on, any policy that insists on keeping the refugees "in the region" is cruel and may prove downright murderous.

So there is no point in ministers acting all insulted when the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees criticises us; nor should UNHCR have to negotiate endlessly with picky governments on either side of the Atlantic about which category of refugees they will accept. We have an obligation. Government has to accept it, and accept also that some electors, whether Knightsbridge boulevardiers or pub fascists, won't like it. In the old army adage, if you can't take a joke, then you shouldn't have joined.

comment@the-times.co.uk

'It is Scotland that binds the whole Union together. If Scotland becomes independent, it should take Ulster with it'

Patrick West

The elections in Scotland are feared by many to signal the beginning of the end of the Union, ushering in a new, unhappy political age: Balkanised Britain. Yet the dissolution of Britain will not be as bad as people think. It will be worse, because of one factor alarmingly absent from the current debate: the future of Ulster.

The reason is stunningly obvious. For without a Union, one cannot be a Unionist; if the concept of Britishness has been abolished, one cannot be British. A loyalist? Loyal to whom? The end of the Union will leave a million people in Ulster bereft not only of a state, but of a nation; propelled into a kind of ethnic vacuum, a pyschological no man's land.

So if Scotland does become independent, what will be done with Northern Ireland? There are four options.

A united Ireland would not be acceptable to Ulster Unionists and Dublin certainly would not relish the prospect of having to deal with a million volatile and unwilling new citizens of an enlarged Republic.

Alternatively, Northern Ireland might want to seek outright independence, an option mooted by William Craig's Vanguard movement in the 1970s. This has since gained little favour; shunned by a people whose attachment is to the Queen and everything British, not to a parochial Ulster statelet devoid of military protection from London.

Then again, Ulster could remain in a rump United Kingdom of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Such a preposterous political set-up would fail. It would founder on the rock of Ulster attitudes towards the English. It is participation in a greater Britain, not an attenuated linkage with a littler England which sustains Unionists. Ulster folk, Protestant and Catholic, regarding the English as ignorant, capricious and reluctant upholders of the Union. The English certainly have no understanding of Unionists, whom they caricature as violent, perverse, bowler-hatted interpreters of Britishness.

Ulster's affiliation to the UK rests upon Scotland's participation. Ulster's most Unionist party, Ian Paisley's DUP, begins its conference not with *Land of Hope and Glory* but *Scotland the Brave*. Indeed, it is Scotland that binds the whole Union together. Which is is why a radical option should be mooted: if Scotland becomes independent, it should take Ulster with it.

For Ulster Protestants, "the mainland" — literally and psychologically — begins at Stranraer. Six out of seven Ulster Protestants claim to be the descendants of Scottish settlers of the 17th century. Indeed, anyone who has walked down Belfast's Shankill Road will have observed the Cross of St George noticeably absent on murals; the Cross of St Andrew dominates. The UVF and the UDA are said to raise around £100,000 a year in Scotland, while the Orange Order is formidable in Caledonia, boasting 1,000 lodges and a reputed 80,000 members. And if soccer be the litmust test of national identity today, it is interesting to note the prevalence of two particular football kits on the streets of Ulster. Glasgow Rangers and Glasgow Celtic are the Province's two biggest soccer teams. Most revealing of all, during last year's World Cup, most people in Ulster — both Catholic and Protestant — cheered on the Scots rather than the English team.

Yet the most compelling reason why Scotland should take Ulster with it stems from the increasingly accepted notion — popularised by *Braveheart* and Irvine Welsh's *Trainspotting* — that Scotland was "colonised" by the English and therefore should seek national liberation.

This is a convenient fiction. Scotland prior to the Union of 1707 was a backward and impoverished land, eager to join England's prosperous empire-building project.

Self-serving Scottish talk of English colonisation actually masks a more authentic form of subjugation that occurred 300 years ago, when Ulster was overrun by thousands of Scottish settlers. Their sons still pay tribute to their ancestors, and their lost language of "Ulster-Scots". England never colonised Scotland. But Scotland did make a colony out of Ulster. So Scotland, when you go, take Ulster with you.

There may not be much chance of seeing an Ulster-Scots union, as there was in the 6th century when Dál Riala ruled a single kingdom that straddled the North Channel. Such a modest proposal would be derided as brutishly simplistic. But brutish simplicities are what you end up dealing in once you resort to the discourse of "colonialism".

The simple truth is that if the Union does collapse, in the name of "national liberation" then Ulster faces a future more brutish than any colonisation .

patrickwest@newsint.co.uk

DIARY

Retail therapy

HAVING settled the future of the world's children with Hillary Clinton at the Nato jamboree, Cherie Blair got down to what is really important: shopping.

Our "First Lady" ventured to the fashionable Polo Ralph Lauren clothes emporium in George Town, Washington, on Saturday. With bodyguards (but minus Gaynor Cook), she whisked around, then loaded booty into three waiting cars. The FO is surprised. "There was a full programme for leaders and their wives. There was little free time." Well done, Cherie (pictured with her new mate, Ralph): she has crossed the final frontier for new Labour — polo.



"NOT giving a sod" might be George Walden's take on Ken Clarke. But Paddy Ashdown has different memories. He shuffled in with Clarke to hear the Queen's Speech after the election. "The Tories would be mad not to elect you leader, Ken," said Paddy supportively. Shot back Ken: "Yes, but they are mad."

■ A BISHOP who branded opponents of women priests "miserable buggers" has really gone for it this time: the Bishop of Edinburgh is to publish a book with such challenging questions as "was the Trojan horse gay?" In *Godless Morality*, the Right Rev Richard Holloway argues that God is no longer necessary for moral guidance and that sin is an outmoded notion.

"He's just trying to shock," thunders George Austin, Archdeacon of York. "Take sin away and there is no point in him being a bishop. He's just a loose cannon."

SHOE fetishist Carla Powell is to offer her stilettos to the V&A, which is interested in mounting an exhibition of female power mules: "People have houses crawling with books, I have shoes."

■ SELF-CONFIDENT children are invited to submit designs for the Diana, Princess of Wales memorial playground. The Royal Parks Agency seeks "expressions of interest" for its "innovative play environment" in Kensington. It hopes to "cater for a wide range of play types, eg, symbolic, socio-dramatic, social, creative, exploratory, fantasy, locomotor, mastery, object, role . . ." I could go on.

A YEAR 2000 bounty for wage slaves: the millennium bug has hit the Inland Revenue, with tax demands going out for 1900.



■ THE assassin blamed for putting down *One Man and His Dog* is said to be training her sights on *Late Review*, the arts kennel which houses Germaine Greer, Tony Parsons and my friend Mark Lawson. Timid sorts fear that Jane Root, the new Controller of BBC2, is about to end their misery.

"We think she sees us as old hat," I am told. "We have heard that she might cull us for her 'fresh image'."

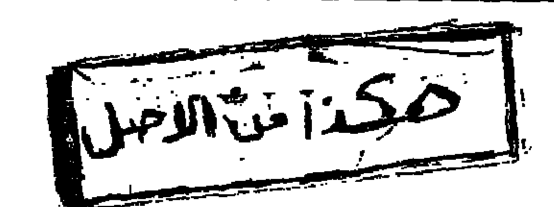
SAD sight: Peter Mandelson, minus ministerial car, pootling along in a tiny blue Fiat Punto.

■ BEST wishes to Henry "Blowers" Blofeld, who has been confined to a hospital ward after a triple bypass heart op. The 59-year-old cricket commentator, celebrating 25 years since he started at *Test Match Special* on the BBC, should be back in the box by the beginning of June for the Super Six.

My old chum Antony Worrall Thompson is off the hook in the great shrew invasion saga. He points out that he parted company with Simpsons, the proprietor of Dell'Ugo, more than two years ago. My butler Owen promises to step up his inquiries.

JASPER GERARD







TROUBLED WATERS

The wrong symbolic gesture from Nato and the EU

Nato's leaders left Washington more united as to aims, but still adrift as to means. Despite the best efforts of Tony Blair and Jacques Chirac, Bill Clinton continues to dither over the one decision that would impress Slobodan Milosevic and his generals, an order to mobilise Nato ground forces. The instruction to Nato commanders to revise their "assessment" of the options for ground troops sounds like, and is, disguised prevarication.

Whatever the impact of the intensified air campaign on which the Alliance is agreed, this delay makes no military sense. Even under the best scenario, withdrawal by Belgrade of "all" its forces from Kosovo, Nato will need a much larger and better-armed force than it now has ready to go, because it can take nothing on trust. If Belgrade does not yield, Nato will have to push it out of Kosovo, and that demands deployment well before Kosovo's early autumn snows come to the Serbs' defence. Instead of drawing satisfaction from yesterday's apparently "brave" testing of the Serb political waters by Vuk Draskovic, the Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister, therefore, the alert should be sounding in Nato headquarters. Nato is at risk of being caught humiliatingly unprepared, as Mr Milosevic will not have failed to note.

To this sin of omission, Nato leaders added one of commission — the utterly illjudged proclamation of a naval blockade to prevent oil flowing into Serbia via the Montenegrin port of Bar on the Adriatic. Nothing Nato has done since March 24 throws more doubt on the quality of its strategic thinking. The EU and Nato oil embargo on both Serbia and Montenegro is itself a mistake; the most likely consequence will be to deliver Montenegro's democratic and bravely neutral Government into Belgrade's power. A naval blockade is unthinkable. It would be illegal under international law; its impact on the Serbian purge of Kosovo would be marginal; and its political consequences would be little short of disastrous.

To stop a ship on the high seas is an act of war. That would be the legal implication of stopping, say, a Russian vessel. And Nato is pointing its guns at a phantom target. There have been dark references to Russian oil shipments to Serbia. But Russia has shipped nothing through land pipelines since the start of the Nato bombing campaign, and only insignificant amounts by sea. By far the largest quantities, including 65,000 barrels in a single Texaco shipment from British refineries, have been of EU and Nato origin. The folly of this move is that the Russian Government will now come under domestic pressure to put Nato to the test.

The US is wrong to claim that a blockade is justified by UN Security Council Resolution 1160 of 1998, which bans exports to Yugoslavia of "arms and related *materiel* of all types". The UN's oil-related sanctions were specifically lifted in 1995, following the Dayton accords. Wiser than its political masters, Nato's military committee yesterday conceded as much, announcing that its "visit and search" regime would not involve the use of force to stop non-Nato or EU vessels. But Nato still intends to challenge "third nation" vessels, to judge by its claim that their shippers will stay away because "no one likes to be stopped at sea by a warship".

Before real damage ensues, this loose talk must stop. Nato and the EU must also exempt Montenegro from their ban. The oil embargo is, as its Government claims, "a real catastrophe" for this already war-damaged economy flooded with Kosovan refugees; it could destroy President Djukanovic and drag Montenegro into the war. His case for neutrality crucially depends, in a country where loyalties are divided, on keeping daily life as normal as possible. Of course there is a risk that some oil will reach the Yugoslav military, which gleefully used the excuse of Nato's blockade yesterday to order Montenegro to hand over its slender oil reserves. But set against Nato's claim to have destroyed 70 per cent of Yugoslav stocks as well as its two refineries, that seepage would be minimal. Other porous frontiers mean that Nato cannot squeeze every last drop of oil out of Serbia's supply lines. It should get back to concentrating on the central question: when, how and with what troops it is to prosecute the endgame against Belgrade.

FATE WORSE THAN DEBT

Simplistic gestures will not help developing nations

Where there is a pinnacle there is also a precipice. So, as expectations for a new millennium mount, it is unsurprising that a sense of disquiet should also stir. What exalted gesture can the West make to mark this moment? How can optimism be maintained at a time when anticlimax looms? The millennial mood creates a market for the grand proposal, for the great achievement to which a nation can point for reassurance. At this turning-point of time, people are particularly susceptible to the simplistic scheme, to the madcap proposal which captivates public enthusiasm. The campaign propagated by the faith-based Jubilee 2000 movement to eradicate Third World debt may be well-intentioned, but it amounts to just such a senselessly impulsive gesture.

This is not to imply that the issue of debt relief can be dismissed as the dream of idealists. Quite rightly, a privileged West feels uneasy about the poverty trap in which it watches underdeveloped nations flail, helplessly trapped by histories of financial mismanagement and irresponsible handouts. This week, as representatives from the G7 economic powers — including the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, and the International Development Secretary Clare Short — gather in Washington, debt relief is deservedly occupying a prominent place in discussions.

But, as Ms Short noted in a welcome and tough-minded speech, the problems of the world's poorest countries cannot be solved by blanket cancellation of debt. Although initially such freedom would result in financial improvement, without accompanying development of sound economic policies it could only ever provide a tantalisingly short-term sense of progress. Debt, after all, as any businessman knows, is not necessarily bad. Governments, like companies, must borrow to invest and expand economically. Unless a country can prove itself capable of paying competitive rates of interest on a loan, it is unlikely ever to find a willing creditor again.

Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs) must continue to qualify, as they do now, for debt relief schemes. In acknowledgement of their efforts at reform, Uganda and Bolivia have had their financial burden eased. It would be poor reward for such nations should countries such as Sudan or the Democratic Republic of Congo be equally helped. Sudan may be among the world's most impoverished nations, yet its Government still chooses to spend most of its scant budget on arms. Congo is destroying itself in corruption and conflict. To forgive its debts at present would only result in yet more military spending and fatter overseas bank accounts in the names of a powerful minority.

The developing world demands measured wisdom from the West, not the grandiose gesture. It deserves respect, not patronising indulgence. Mr Brown has already outlined a plan to improve the situation of debt-burdened nations, including an increase in aid and the selling of International Monetary Fund gold to help to finance debt cuts. In answer to frequent accusations of irresponsible lending, he has committed Britain for two years to a policy whereby export credits will not be extended to HIPCs for non-productive expenditure. These solutions take time. The developing world's problems will take more than the stroke of a clock to solve.

LIFE IS A CABERNET

A little of what you fancy can do you good

Alcohol is apparently becoming the unexpected and fashionable health drink. While all brands of fresh orange juice and mineral water appear to have more or less the same sort of positive impact on health, regardless of which oranges have been squeezed, and from which well the water has sprung. The nutritional benefits of alcohol, in particular red wine, are the subject of a more advanced science. Red wine drinkers, well known as extremely sophisticated analysts, can now compare the invigorating qualities of specific grapes grown in different areas.

The news today that a French cardiologist claims that cabernet sauvignon from the Gironde is one of the most effective wines at keeping arteries clear is another example of the growing recognition that, in moderation, alcohol can be good for you.

A few weeks ago, Safeway, with the help of the University of Glasgow, revealed that its Chilean cabernet sauvignon (Lontue region) and merlot may also help you live longer. The secret ingredient in this case is flavonols, and the more of them the better. Flavonols are anti-oxidants which may keep heart disease and cancer at bay. The University and the supermarket now have the flavonol ratings of no fewer than 65 red wines. So, flavonols may be about to be the next big thing for healthy enophiles.

Californians have gone a step further. Labels on some wine bottles encourage drinkers "to consult your family doctor about the health effects of wine consumption". Given the constraints of the NHS, it is unlikely that British GPs will find time to fully swot up on the flavonol and reservatol ratings of the local off-licence's offerings.

Some sceptics might seek to dismiss these nutritional revelations as a marketing ploy by wine-producers and supermarkets. Or they might point out, correctly, that large quantities of alcohol are distinctly disturbing. But the recognition that wine can be good for you should be welcomed as a small corrective against the numerous health scares which overshadow the good things in life. Alcohol has spent years out in the cold as a condemned drink. It is now time to acknowledge that whisky can have anti-coagulant qualities, that white wine can guard against shellfish bacteria, and that a glass or two of cabernet a day may be just what the doctor orders.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Tory commitment to public services

From Dr David Green

Sir, William Hague's attempt to earn the trust of the people in health and education ("The NHS is safer in our hands", April 23) is deeply confused. Free marketeers accept that the State should guarantee universal access to health and education; but they also point out that maintaining access for rich and poor does not require the Government to own and manage all the schools and hospitals.

In healthcare the consequence of putting a national cash limit on spending appears to have been the delay, dilution and denial of care, exemplified by the premature death of thousands of cancer sufferers, reported in the same issue of *The Times*.

In the heyday of Thatcherism the favourite remedy of free marketeers for state monopoly in education was the voucher, a system of finance that guaranteed all children the chance to go to a school chosen by their parents. In America vouchers are a reality. Publicly funded schemes have been established in Wisconsin and Ohio, with others planned, and privately funded voucher schemes are available in some 40 states.

New Labour has even made a small gesture in favour of competition and diversity by encouraging private management of some schools. Yet, just as the case for competition is gaining wider acceptance, Mr Hague seems to have decided to be more left-wing than Labour.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID GREEN
(Director, Health and Welfare Unit),
The Institute of Economic Affairs,
2 Lord North Street, SW1P 3LB.
April 26.

From Mr M. R. W. G. Banks

Sir, Well done, Peter Lilley, in helping to guide the Conservative Party towards renewing public confidence in our commitment to public services such as education, health and welfare. These issues, together with sound monetary policy and good defence, are the bedrock of Conservative beliefs.

William Hague is right. The battles of the 1980s have been won. We must now look to the challenges of the 21st century.

Up to 1992 I campaigned in my constituency on a personal commitment to improve public services and the local environment within the lifetime of a Parliament. The prospect of winning back more such seats is considerably aided by William Hague's commitment to fight against the euro, as well as reaffirming the Conservative commitment to public services.

Yours faithfully,
MATTHEW BANKS
(Conservative MP for
Southport, 1992-97),
Gordon Castle, Fochabers,
Morayshire IV32 7PQ.
April 25.

From Mrs Christine Butler

Sir, As a lifelong Conservative supporter and former candidate, I am very distressed that I can no longer support the Conservative Party after Peter Lilley's mealy-mouthed betrayal. Surely a massive increase in public spending and taxes will alienate what few remaining supporters there are.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE BUTLER,
51 Cavendish Avenue,
Cambridge CB1 7UR.
April 26.

From Mr Tim Huth

Sir, I was pleased to learn that the Conservatives may shortly return to One Nation "Heathite" policies. If so, I could be tempted back to that party after a 20-year sojourn with the SDP and Liberal Democrats.

Congratulations Peter Lilley. Like Clause Four, needs must prevail.

Yours faithfully,
TIM HUTH,
22 Bracklesham Road,
Hayling Island PO11 9SJ.
timohut@clara.net
April 25.

High romance

From Mr Richard Green

Sir, It was my intention to propose on a high peak (letters, April 16, 17 and 23) to the Australian woman who is now my wife, during the three-week visit to the UK of her sprightly father in 1988.

I lost my nerve the first weekend atop Snowdon and was thwarted by adverse weather the following weekend at Ben Nevis.

Weather and nerve were overcome on the final weekend of his visit when I handed him the camera and asked him to take a photo of Kym and me at the top of Scafell Pike on St George's Day. I shouted "Now!", popped the question and the rest, as they say, is history.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GREEN,
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Bowdon, Cheshire WA14 3LH.
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April 23.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Nato strategy and stamina to succeed in Balkans

From Lieutenant-Colonel John Woodhouse (retd)

Sir, Nato targeted and hit the Serb TV station in Belgrade knowing it was on air and staffed by civilians. The deaths that resulted are surely not collateral damage but murder.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WOODHOUSE,
Higher Melcombe,
Melcombe Bingham,
Dorchester, Dorset DT2 7PB.
April 26.

From Mr S. Harry

Sir, I read with increasing disquiet the reports of what Nato considers a military target. The Geneva Conventions Act 1957 (amended 1995) of the UK specifically states that "civilians shall not be the object of attack" (sch 5, art 52.1) and also that "civilians shall enjoy protection unless they take a direct part in hostilities" (sch 6, art 13.3). The definition of a civilian can be simplified to persons not involved with either military or paramilitary groups. The targeting of a television broadcasting station, although arguably furthering Nato's objectives, was an intentional and premeditated attack on civilians.

I submit that this attack has breached the terms of the Geneva Conventions and puts the Nato forces on the same moral ground as the Serbian leadership they are fighting against.

Yours faithfully,
SAM HARRY,
106 Worting Road,
Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 8UB.
j.harry@btinternet.com
April 25.

From Professor Geoffrey Lee Williams

Sir, There has been an excess of gloomy talk in the media about Nato having suffered a strategic defeat over Kosovo, to some extent mirrored in the febrile articles written by Simon Jenkins and the defeatist prose of William Rees-Mogg ("Keep out and stay out", April 19).

Why this urge to pass premature judgment on a complex military operation whose outcome has yet to be determined by events still unfolding? Is it driven by the strategic analysis of the likely outcome of the current conflict or by a palpable desire to appease Belgrade in the hope that Nato could agree to a Munich-style settlement with the mendacious Milosevic?

Surely the suspicion must be that the growing number of strategists have taken the easy way out in not having the stamina to stick with the brutal logic of applying graduated coercion on an adversary whose behaviour defies the standards and values by which Nato stands? Clearly, Nato has not yet suffered a strategic defeat and has at its disposal sufficient military means to prevent such a disastrous outcome.

Let us not heed the appeasers of Paris and Rome and refuse to listen to the lamentable intellectual heirs of Munich whose defeatism your elegantly expressed editorials have done so much to discredit.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS,
The Institute of Economic
and Political Studies,
Instep Cambridge,
Warkworth House,
Warkworth Terrace,
Cambridge CB1 1EE.
April 26.

From Mr Gay W. K. Fenn-Smith

Sir, Serving on the staff of 3rd Infantry Division during the Suez Operation Musketeer, I saw many of the order, counter-order and disorder aspects of an "illegal war" and recognise many similarities between 1956 and 1999.

Your obituary today of Dame Kathleen Raven reminded us that 7,000 Londoners perished in one night during the Blitz. Churchill would probably have been lynched if he had suggested suing for peace in the aftermath of that dreadful experience.

As the aerial reduction of Serbia intensifies it seems more likely to me that our Prime Minister will be bracketed with Eden in the history books than that the Serbs will allow Milosevic to surrender.

Yours faithfully,
GAY W. K. FENN-SMITH,
153 Cambridge Street, SW1V 4QB.
April 21.

From Mr Derek B. Forrest

Sir, Our youngest son is a gunner in a Challenger with The King's Royal Hussars sitting in a wood on the Macedonian border (Glastonbury without the music, he calls it).

He and his family have to accept that at times he will have to put his life at risk. We do, however, owe it to him to give him the best possible chance not only of winning but also of staying alive. I am concerned that the reluctance of Nato politicians to commit themselves to what I regard as an inevitable land offensive is not doing this.

Even if we begin now it will be three to four months before sufficient forces and logistics can be assembled to ensure success. This brings us up to August and every day's delay brings us nearer to autumn with its poor visibility and short days.

My plea therefore is for the politicians to abandon the present "no land forces" mantra and get on with it. Unless, of course, the plan is to wait for next spring.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK FORREST,
Egremont, Wigan Road,
Leyland, Lancashire PR5 2SD.
April 23.

From His Honour David Pennant

Sir, It appears that we are not officially at war with Yugoslavia. It seems, too, that Mr Blair is saying that the bombing campaign will, regrettably but inevitably, cause civilian casualties. If somebody makes a formal charge of murder against the person who ordered the dropping of the bombs, what legal defence, if any, could be urged on his behalf?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PENNANT,
12 Ettrick Road,
Branksome Park, Poole BH13 6LG.
April 26.

From Mr Peter Tatton-Brown

Sir, Now is the time for Nato to be positive and produce an "Albright Plan" to help Montenegro, Macedonia and Albania out of their poverty by helping them to build schools, hospitals and roads and providing training.

Such action might help the Serbs accept a peaceful and honourable solution to their problems.

Yours faithfully,
PETER TATTON-BROWN,
Old Watercombe Farm,
Branscombe, Seaton,
East Devon EX12 3BT.
April 26.

Smack of authority

From Mrs Cornelia Oddie

Sir, In his letter (April 19) Roger Singleton of Barnardo's claims that according to a recent MORI poll 73 per cent of those asked supported law reform to protect children from physical assault, but did not wish parents to be criminalised for giving "trivial smacks".

Children are already protected by law from violent abuse by parents and others. Further legislation being campaigned for by the "Children are unbeatable" alliance is intended to stop all physical punishment of children by law and will thus criminalise good, non-violent parents who judge that a smack (or threatened smack) on the hand, leg or bottom may be appropriate corrective punishment for specified misdemeanours.

Such proposed legislation not only diminishes the right of parents to judge how best to raise their children: more seriously still, it opens the way for state intervention into properly functioning families with the possible result that large numbers of children could be unjustly removed from their parents. The same reasonable-sounding arguments were used in Sweden, where there is no distinction in law between smacking and violent abuse, and parents may be imprisoned for a simple smack. The stated aim of Barnardo's in its booklet *Why speak out against smacking?* would appear to be to equate them in this country.

Physical violence towards children is already illegal. Further legislation is aimed to outlaw trivial smacks and the MORI poll results show that most respondents are against this.

Yours faithfully,
CORNELIA ODDIE
(Deputy Director),
Family Education Trust,
322 Woodstock Road,
Oxford OX2 7NS.
April 19.

From Mr Michael Cavaghan-Pack

Sir, Like the Chief Executive of Barnardo's I, too, support "positive discipline for children", but have sufficient respect for my children not to waste my time giving them "trivial smacks". I would certainly support law reform to protect children, but if that means criminalising effective smacking or spanking, then my support, and I am sure that of many parents, seriously weakens.

To equate a soundly smacked bottom with a physical assault is gravely to trivialise child cruelty, and can only impede rather than advance the present campaign.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CAVAGHAN-PACK,
The Manor House,
Thurloxton, Taunton TA2 8RH.
April 19.

Millennium denial

From Mr Gerry Hanson

Sir, Having reached the age where I no longer feel confident about buying green bananas, it would be arrogant to assume that I'll still be around to celebrate the millennium on the correct date in 20 months' time.

However, the celebrations of the misguided majority promise to provide a splendid party, too good to miss. So, when we have recovered from our hangovers, sensible people like Mr Michael Shaw (letter, April 22; see also letter, April 16), should simply greet their foolish friends with a "welcome to the last year of the 20th century".

Yours truly,
GERRY HANSON,
Potters Lodge, 74a Slough Road,
Iver Heath SL0 0DY.
April 22.

From Mr Ed Robinson

Sir, How are we to greet those who will not be celebrating the millennium on January 1 next? As it is likely that the following day will be little different to the one that preceded it, I suggest "Good morning".

Yours faithfully,
ED ROBINSON,
7 High Warden, Hexham,
Northumberland NE46 4SR.

Community violence

From Mr John R. Parsons

Sir, In your issue of April 22, the first five pages are taken up predominantly with the story of two teenage boys shooting to death their fellow students in Colorado.

Subsequent coverage in the British media has been substantially concerned with a perceived malaise within American culture, with an emphasis on the perennial British obsession with guns.

On page 15 of the same issue appears the headline "Gang tortured mentally ill girl to death". This story concerns five young people who, allegedly, over a period of six days tortured a teenage girl (with whom they were acquainted) to death. Not in America, or some faraway place with a strange-sounding name, but in England. To my knowledge the British media have not questioned or debated the implications of this behaviour.

I find it worrying and symptomatic that the British media see fit to invest so much effort into highlighting the problems of the United States rather than the equally disturbing problems in our own country.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PARSONS,
6 Little Hayes,
Kingsteignton, Devon TQ12 3YP.
johnrparsons@btinternet.com
April 24.

Nut allergy

From Dr Julian P. W. Walter

Sir, Hopefully now, everyone who suffers from a serious nut allergy (report, April 21) will be supplied with, and accept their need to carry, adrenaline (intramuscular) injector pens for immediate use. Or preferably two, one for the handbag or pocket and one for the home or car. Cost to the NHS — approximately £25 each, for what is the lifesaving treatment of choice for acute anaphylaxis.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. W. WALTER,
Rapha House Surgery,
Stockcroft Road, Balcombe,
West Sussex RH17 6LQ.

Fit to read?

From Miss Susan Pease

Sir, There appears to have been a bad infestation by an elusive creature that eats newsprint, the evidence being a number of small, rectangular holes throughout *The Times*.

Would it not be a good idea to put all the useful offers for books, cottages, CDs, etc. on one page? We then might be able to trap and identify this animal.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN PEASE,
130 Goldhurst Terrace, NW6 3HR.
susan_pease_designs_ltd@compuserve.com
April 26.

Classical mix-up

From the Judge Advocate General

Sir, Joe Joseph ("Right and thong", April 23) enjoins everyone to speed lawyers on their way into a Latin-free world with the reminder that Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone described his muttered Woolsack comments as *sotto voce*. Thus, writes Mr Joseph with a triumphant chortle, "Hailsham instinctively used the Latin phrase".

At least some of us now Latinless lawyers can tell Latin from Italian. Is it time to wrest journalists, too, away from foreign jargon?

Yours faithfully,
JAMES W. RANT,
Office of the Judge Advocate General,
22 Kingsway, WC2B 6LE.
April 23.

Beyond belief?

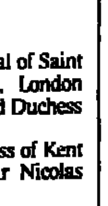
From Mr Colin Jones

Sir, You report (April 17) that God is said to have given worshippers' teeth gold fillings, and also that a businessman filmed his friends "having sex without their knowledge".

Are you implying that there is a connection between these two miracles?

Yours faithfully,
COLIN JONES,
Three Gables, Combs, High Peak,
Derbyshire SK23 9UU.
April 17.





COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 26: Lady Dugdale has succeeded The Hon Mary Morrison as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 26: The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

His Royal Highness, later visited the Majlis al-Shura.

The Duke of Edinburgh, this evening attended a Rolls-Royce Reception at Her Majesty's Ambassador's Residence, Riyadh.

His Royal Highness later opened the "King Abdul Aziz through British Eyes" Exhibition at the King Abdul Aziz Foundation and this evening attended a Dinner with Prince Sattam.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 26: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince of Wales Foundation for Architecture and the Urban Environment, this morning addressed a conference organised by Regeneration through Heritage entitled "Making Heritage Industrial Buildings Work: adapting Britain's heritage industrial buildings for contemporary economic and cultural purposes" at the Great Western Railway Works, Swindon.

His Royal Highness, Patron, The Bath Festival, this afternoon attended a reception for The Bath Festival.

The Prince of Wales this evening held a dinner for English Lords-Lieutenant.

The Prince of Wales was represented by the Marquess of Cholmondeley at the Memorial Service for Mr Alecko Papamarkou which was held in the Cathedral of Saint Sophia, Moscow Road, London W2, today. The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester attended.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by Mr Nicolas Adamson.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 26: The Duke of York, President, this evening attended a dinner for the Royal Agricultural Society at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 26: The Princess Royal this morning departed from RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire, to visit Cyprus and Egypt.

Mrs David Bowes-Lyon and Mrs Philip Gee are in attendance.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon arrived at RAF Akrotiri and was received by the Commander British Forces Cyprus (Major-General Angus Ramsay).

The Princess Royal this evening attended a Reception and Super given by the Commander British Forces Cyprus at Flagstaff House, Paramali.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 26: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester this evening attended a piano recital in aid of Historic Sites of Vukovar in Croatia at the Royal Festival Hall, London.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 26: The Duke of Kent this evening attended a dinner in honour of the Australian Governor-General Sir William Deane, at the Australian High Commissioner's Residence at Stoke Lodge, Hyde Park Gate, London.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, president, Business in the Community, will present the Community Entrepreneurs Awards at St James's Palace.
The Duke of Kent, vice-chairman, British Overseas Trade Board, will open the Warrington Business Connections Exhibition at Burtonwood, Warrington, at 10.00; will open the Autoquest Stadium at Widnes, Cheshire, at 11.30; will open the Millennium Learning Centre of the Priestley Sixth Form and Community College, Lowshers Lane, Warrington, at 2.00; and as Grand Master, United Grand Lodge of England, will attend a dinner for the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Sweden and others in the Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn, at 7.00.
For more details about the Royal Family visit the royal website at : www.royal.gov.uk

New ambassadors

Miss Kay Coombs has been appointed Ambassador to Mongolia from July, in succession to Mr John Durham who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service.
Mr John Jenkins has been appointed Ambassador to Myanmar (Burma) from July, in succession to Mr Robert Gordon who will be transferring to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.

Birthdays today

Professor John Barron, Master, St Peter's College, Oxford, 65; Miss Darcey Bussell, ballerina, 30; Mr Donald Buttress, Surveyor of the Fabric of Westminster Abbey, 67; the Most Rev Lord Eames, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, 62; Mr Michael Fish, meteorologist, 55; Lord Imbert, 66; the Right Rev E.W. Kemp, Bishop of Chichester, 84; Sir Harry Melville, FRS, former Principal, Queen Mary College, 91; Air Vice-Marshal J.J. Miller, 71; Mr Igor Oistrakh, violinist, 68; Mr Jeff Probyn, rugby player, 43; Mr Richard Ralph, diplomat, 53; Mr Alan Reynolds, painter, 73; Sir Richard Sutton, farmer, 62; the Hon Sir Nicholas Serota, director, Tate Gallery, 53; Lord Taylor of Gryfe, 87; Sir John Thomson, former diplomat, 72.

General Sir John Archer

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of General Sir John Archer, KCB, OBE, will be held in the Abbey Church of St Mary the Virgin, Sherborne at 2.30pm on Friday, June 25, 1999.

Legal appointment

Miss Heather Carol Hallett, QC, has been appointed a Justice of the High Court, assigned to the Queen's Bench Division.

ALAN WELLER



Artists join fight for wildlife

The Eyes of the Tiger, above, a watercolour on silk by Murlidhar Parashar, is one of a number of works of art in which tigers predominate, to be auctioned tomorrow at the first Art for Survival Wildlife Auction at Christie's, South Kensington. More than 50 original paintings of tigers, rhinos and elephants have been donated by leading wildlife artists, including David Shepherd and his daughter Mandy, and three Indian artists, from Ranthambhore National Park, including Mr Parashar. Celebrity supporters of the David Shepherd Conservation Foundation include Jeremy Clarkson, who contributed the charming elephant on the right. The auction hopes to raise at least £75,000 to help the fight against poachers and to protect habitation for some of the world's most endangered species.

Dinners

Australian High Commissioner
The Duke of Kent attended a dinner given by the High Commissioner for Australia and Mrs Flood last night at their residence in honour of the Governor General of Australia and Lady Deane. Among those present were:
The Earl and Countess of Limerick, Lord and Lady Browne-Wilkinson, Lord and Lady Camoys, Dr Marjorie Mowlam, MP, and Mr Jon Mowlam, Sir Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Sir Peter and Lady Gadsden, Sir Victor and Lady Garland, General Sir Charles and Lady Guthrie, Sir Robin and Lady Janvrin, Sir John and Lady Kerr, Vice-Admiral Sir James and the Hon Lady Weatherall, Mr Nicolas Adamson, Mr Martin Bonsey, Mr and Mrs Michael Cook, Mr and Mrs Leon Davis, Mr Sheriff and Mrs Brian Harris, Mr and Mrs John Mitchell, Mr David Ritchie and Ms Irma Ficarra.

Freight Transport Association
Mr John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, was the principal speaker at the annual dinner of the Freight Transport Association held last night at the London Hilton on Park Lane. Mr Lawrence Christensen, president of the association, was the host and presided.

Newspaper Society
Mr Jack Cunningham, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the Newspaper Society held yesterday at Bloomsbury House, London. Mr Charles Brims, president of the society and Chief Executive of Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers, was the host. Among those present were:
The Chairman of the Kent Messenger Group, the Chairman of Southnews, the Chairman of Bristol United Press, the Chairman and Managing Director of Hirst, Kidd and Rennie, the Chairman of Tindle Newspapers, the Managing Director of the C N Group, Cumbria, the Editor of the *Western Daily Press*, Bristol, the Editor of the *Leicester Mercury* Group, the Editor of the *Western Mail*, Cardiff, the Editor of the *Whitehaven News*, Cumbria and the Political Editor of the *Daily Post*, Liverpool.

Thorney Island Society
Dr Simon Thurley, Director of the Museum of London Archaeological Service, was the speaker at a dinner of the Thorney Island Society held last night at the Basil Street Hotel. Miss June Stubbs, chairman of the society, presided.

Reception

Vizard Oldham
The Partners of Vizard Oldham welcomed clients and friends at a reception held at the Institute of Directors, Pall Mall, London SW1, last night to celebrate the launch of the firm as one of the successor partnerships to the old firm of Vizards which ceases to exist on April 30, 1999. Earlier Sir Bruce Martin, QC, Chairman of the National Health Service Litigation Authority, delivered a lecture entitled "Clinical Negligence Litigation in the New Millennium".

Merchant Adventurers of the City of York

The following have been elected officers of the Company of Merchant Adventurers of the City of York for the ensuing year:
Governor, Mr Lindsay Mackinlay; Deputy Governor, District Judge Michael Grills; Immediate Past Governor, Mr Ashley Burgess; Senior Warden, Mr Trevor Copley; Junior Warden, Mr Darrell Buttery.

Memorial service

The Earl of Guilford
A service of thanksgiving for the life of the Earl of Guilford was held yesterday at St Mary in the Castle, Dover. The Rev Christopher Cook officiated, assisted by the Rev Lawrence Smith and the Ven Michael Brown. Mr Justin Whiteley and Mr Bruce Bossom read the lessons. The Earl of Guilford, son, gave an address. The Chairman of Dover District Council attended. Among others present were:
The Countess of Guilford (daughter-in-law), Lady Angela Whiteley (sister), the Hon Sir Clive and Lady Barbara Bossom (brother-in-law and sister), the Hon Charles North, Mr and Mrs Simon Whiteley, Ms Arabella Bossom and other members of the family.
Representatives of the Royal Society of St George, the St George's Society, the Kent Family History Society, Eastry Hospital League of Friends, the Country Landowners Association, the Men of Kent and Kentish Men, the Royal School for Deaf Children, Margate, St John Ambulance, the Kent Agricultural Society, the Kent County Show, Waldershare House Residents, Save the Children Fund, Eythorne and Waldershare PCC, the Scout Association, the Royal St George's Golf Club, Princes Golf Club, St Mary's in Castro and Dover Society, Huggins Collins Trustees, G W Finn & Son, the Dover Marquee Company and many other friends.

Appointments

Ms Celia Atherton has been appointed a regional adviser for the Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust covering south west England and south Wales, and Ms Esther Salamon for north east England and Yorkshire.

Forces appointments

The Army
COLONEL: G.G. Davies - to Defence Attaché Lagos May 1; A.H. Goldsack, to ACOS RSC HQ ARRC, April 26.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL: T.C. Allen, KRH to HQ TSC(G), February 1; M.B.E. Allison, RHF to BMM SANG, May 1; B.J. Barton-Ancliffe, R Signals to MOD, March 22, 1999; R F Binham to DERA, March 1, 1999; J J Bywater, REME, JHC, April 19; C.J. Drapper, REME, DGES (A), April 19; H.W.R. Eagan, RRW to HQ RAO, August 21; E.C. Feldmanis, REME to DGES(A) December 14, 1998; D.R.K. Francis, RA, to APC, March 1, 1999; P Gillespie, RSignals to JHC January 22, 1999; M C Heelis, REME, to DGES(A), July 5; J W Lanham, AGC to HQ PM Army, July 5; D J Pritchard, RA to HQ RSA, April 6, 1999; J E Richardson, R Signals, to DGD&D, March 29, 1999; P M Russell, AGC to HQ BF Cyprus, August 16; S R Sharman, R Signals to 399SU July 5; R Shuler, RE to HQ SFOR, March 7, 1999; P E W Smith, WFR to HQ INF September 6; R R Smith LI to CO 1LI, May 17; S J Turpin, R Signals - to HQ ARRC February 26, 1999; A J Walker, AGC to AFPAA April 26; T G Wee, AGC to HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div, July 26.

Royal Air Force
Air Vice-Marshal M.D. Pledger to be Air Member for Logistics and Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Logistics Command in the rank of Air Marshal, from April 30 in succession to Air Marshal Sir Colin Terry.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Edward Gibbon, historian, London, 1737; Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, pioneer of women's rights, London, 1759; Samuel Morse, painter and inventor of the telegraphic code bearing his name, Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1791; Ulysses Grant, general, C-in-C of Union forces in American Civil War, 18th American President 1869-77, Point Pleasant, Ohio, 1822; Edward Whymper, mountaineer and wood engraver, London, 1840; Cecil Day-Lewis, Poet Laureate 1968-72, and, as Nicholas Blake, writer of detective stories, Ballintubbert, Co Laois, 1904; Sheila Scott, aviator, Worcester, 1927.

DEATHS: Jan Van Goyen, landscape painter, The Hague, 1656; Thomas Stothard, painter, London, 1834; Ralph Waldo Emerson, philosopher and poet, Concord, Massachusetts, 1882; Alexander Scriabin, composer, Moscow, 1915; Ed Murrow, broadcaster, New York, 1965; Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister of Ghana 1957-60, Bucharest, 1972.

The London Zoological Gardens opened, Regents Park, 1828.
Britain recognised the state of Israel, 1950.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.J.M.O. Gray and Miss E.L. Hall
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Wing Commander and Mrs James Gray, of Telford, Shropshire, and Lucy, daughter of Colonel and Mrs Michael Hall, of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr S. Krevs and Miss F.S.A. Underwood
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs M. Krevs, of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and Fenella, eldest daughter of the late Colonel B.D. Underwood and of Mrs Underwood, of Winsford, Somerset.

Mr A.J. Mayhew and Miss E.C. Brookes
The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr and Mrs Tom Mayhew, of Windsor, Berkshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Commander and Mrs Peter Brookes, of Colerne, Wiltshire.

Marriages

Mr R.J.F. Batty and Miss N.le B. Bridgewater
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 24, at St Mary's Church, Great Eversden, Cambridgeshire, of Mr Richard Batty, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Batty, of Kingston, Surrey, to Miss Nancy Bridgewater, daughter of Mr and Mrs Adrian Bridgewater, of Great Eversden, Cambridgeshire. The Rev P.J. Hammond officiated.
The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Elizabeth, Kitty and Margaret Rice, Max Bridgewater, Nancy Dimpfel, Biba Turnbull, Rosie and Amy Batty, Alex Fraser and Katy and Tommy Sexton. Mr Damian Dibben was best man.
A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent in America.

Mr G. Bignell and Mrs D. Rees
The marriage took place in Lewes, East Sussex, on April 16, 1999, between Mr Geoffrey Bignell and Mrs Diana Rees.

Mr N.G. Swindell and Miss M.E.C. Fawcett
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 24, at St Andrew's Church, Colyton, Devon, between Mr Norman Swindell, son of the late Mr and Mrs J.G. Swindell, and Miss Mary Fawcett, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs B.E.N. Fawcett. The Rev David Gunn-Johnson officiated.

Church news

Canon David Gillett, Principal, Trinity Theological College, and Honorary Canon of Bristol Cathedral (Bristol) is to be Bishop Suffragan of Bolton in succession to the Right Rev David Bonsor (Manchester).
The Ven Clive Young, Archdeacon of Hackney (London), is to be Bishop Suffragan of Dunwich in succession to the Right Rev Tim Stevens (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich).
Canon Mark Bryant, Team Rector, Caludon (Coventry): to be also Area Dean of Coventry East (same diocese).
The Rev Frances Tyler, Honorary Curate, Walsgrave St Mary, and Diocesan Adviser for Women's Ministry (Coventry): to be also Assistant Area Dean of Coventry East (same diocese).

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen. 1 Timothy 1.17 (NIV).

BIRTHS

ASHE - On 23rd April 1999 at the Matilda Hospital, Hong Kong, to Amanda and Dominick, a son, Frederick.

BECCLE - On Tuesday 20th April 1999 in Hong Kong, to Elisabeth (née Scott) and Richard, a son, Edward Stephen.

BELLYNCK GORY - On April 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Helene and Christophe, a son, Geoffroy, a brother for William and Marjorie.

BLACKABY - On April 26th 1999, to Catherine (née Davies) and Stephen, a son, Oliver James, a brother for Anna and William.

BRADY - On 23rd April 1999 at R.V.I. Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to Elizabeth (née Whinney) and Philip, a beautiful daughter, Sarah Elizabeth.

BRYCE - On April 22nd at The Portland Hospital, to Sharon (née Williams) and Chris, a son, Michael James Lindsay.

BURGESS - On 22nd April 1999 at the West Middlesex Hospital, to Julia (née Durant) and David, a daughter, Minna Antonia Caroline, a sister for Alexander. Thanks to family, friends and staff for all their support.

CADELL - On April 23rd, 1999 to Fiona (née Healy) and Piers, a son, James Benedict.

CALLEGARI - On April 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Caroline and John, a son, Gianni Paul.

DWERRYHOUSE - On 16th April 1999 to Jessica (née Douglas) and Mark, a daughter, Serena Flora, a sister for Hugo.

FARQUHAR - On 23rd April, to Victoria (née Collins) and Peter, a daughter, Tatiana Elizabeth. A sister for Edward.

FOWLER - On April 20th at The Portland Hospital, to Shelly and Hugh, a beautiful daughter, Dulcie May, a sister for Ned.

HOLLINGBERY - On April 24th, to Jules (née Rice) and Richard, a daughter, Rose.

IZAWA - On April 23rd at The Portland Hospital, to Yoshiko and Yutaka, a daughter, Natsuko, a sister for Asako.

KERR-DINEEN - On April 22nd 1999, to Valerie (née Rice) and Tim, a daughter, Miranda Poppy.

LABRUM - On April 23rd at The Portland Hospital, to Janine and Stephen, a son, Philip Anthony.

LUTTRELL - On 20th April at Wahroonga, Sydney, to Robert and Pauline, a beautiful daughter, Prudence Hermione Fownes, a sister to Madeleine and Lucinda.

MARSHALL - On April 20th at The Portland Hospital, to Lesley Barrowman and Craig, a beautiful son, James Scott. All well.

MAUGHAN - On 13th April 1999 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Sisse (née Overgaard) and Jon, a beautiful daughter, Sofia Frances, a sister for Amelia.

ORR - To David and Kerima (née Subasciaki), on Tuesday April 13th 1999, a son, Cameron James MacConnell Orr, both home at last, thanks to all friends and family for flowers and visits, thanks to staff at Simpsons.

OSRIN - On April 20th at The Portland Hospital, to Tamara and Malcolm, a son, Jamie Michael, a brother for Daniel and Nicola.

PAGE - On 20th April to Amanda (née Marshall) and Charles, a daughter, Sophia Alexandra Alice, a sister for Edward.

PAZZI-AXWORTHY - On April 13th 1999, to Elizabeth (née Dale) and Rhodri, a daughter, Lydia Charlotte Angharad.

PEREYRA IRAOLA - On April 23rd at The Portland Hospital, to Agustina Paz Menendez and Pablo Jorge, a son, Pablo Jose.

RAE - On April 19th 1999, to Fiona (née Watt) and Alistair, a daughter, Katherine (Katie) India, a sister for Alexander.

SANDISON - To Debbie (née Horsfall) and William, on April 22nd, a daughter, Ella Harriet.

SIMON - On April 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Beth (née Spinola) and Joel, a daughter, Josephine Rose, a sister for Olivia Clara.

SPENCER-NAIRN - On April 10th 1999 at Whitehills, Forfar, to Jane (née Williamson) and Jamie, a son, Alastair Charles.

STACK - On April 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Marianne (née Keeley) and Andrew, a son, Hugo, a brother for Tom.

SUTCLIFFE - On April 21st 1999, to Marcella (née Pellegrino) and Johnny, a daughter, Cecilia Marcella, a sister for Francesca and Edward.

TRACE - On April 24th 1999, to Tessa (née Ross) and Simon, an adorable son, Benjamin Ross.

WHITWORTH - On April 18th to Sarah (née Dutton) and Benjamin, a son, Henry Warwick (Harry), with grateful thanks to all at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester.

WILLIAMS - On April 23rd at The Portland Hospital, to Fiona (née Davies) and John, a daughter, Charlotte, a sister for Annabel.

DEATHS

ALDERTON - On 23rd April 1999 at St Richards Hospital, Chichester, Mary Beatrice (Betty). Dearly loved and very loving wife of E.C. Alderton C.M.G. (Bobby) of Ferring, and formerly of Eastern Nigeria. Died after years of pain, stoically endured. Cremation at Chichester Crematorium on 29th April at 1.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations to St Barnabas Hospice, Worthing, via Dillistone Funeral Service tel: (01903) 726324.

ALMAN - John Harold died on 22nd April, 1999. Much loved husband of the late Elizabeth; father of David, Linda, Candace; father-in-law of Derek, Donna; grandfather of Jonathan, John, Jeremy, Cameron, Katherine and Erin. Service at 12 noon on Friday, 30th April, at the West Chapel, Golder's Green Crematorium, 62 Hoop Lane, London NW11. If desired, flowers or donations to the British Stroke Association may be sent to Leverton & Sons Ltd., 1 Denmark Terrace, Fortis Green, London N2 9HG. Tel: 0181 444 5753.

BALSTON - On 24th April 1999 Commander Edward Francis Balston D.S.O. R.N. Husband of the late Diana, formerly of Crowhurst, East Sussex. Funeral Service at Crowhurst Parish Church on Tuesday 4th May at 11.30 am. Flowers and enquiries to F Jempson & Son, 38 High Street, Battle. 01424 772029.

BAXENDALE - Dorothy Anne, (née Richardson). On April 25th 1999 aged 64, died peacefully at home after a courageous battle with cancer. Dearly beloved wife of Brian, dearest mother of Mike and Helen and loving grandmother of Emma, Shane, Ava and Milo. Funeral 11 am Thursday 29th April at Macclesfield Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations appreciated to Imperial Cancer Research Fund or Christies Hospital, Manchester. Enquiries to Albert R. Slack 01625 525063.

BAZALGETTE - Paul, on 22nd April peacefully at The Conquest Hospital, Hastings, after a short illness. Husband of Sue and the late Diana, father of Christopher, Vivian, Peter and Deborah and grandfather. Funeral at The Hastings Crematorium, The Ridge, Hastings at 1.45 pm Thursday 29th April and afterwards at his house. No flowers, please.

BENNETT - On April 25th at home Elizabeth (Lib), beloved wife of John, loving mother of James and grandmother of Zsofia Lilla. Funeral Service at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Friday April 30th at 3.30 pm. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Dr. Cunninghams Cancer Research Fund c/o R. Medhurst F/D, Vine House, Hartfield, East Sussex TN7 4AD, tel: (01892) 770253.

BROWN - Dame Gillian Gerda Brown DCVO CMG, former Ambassador to Norway, died suddenly on April 21st aged 75. So greatly loved sister of Juliet Frankland and daughter of the late Gerda and Walter Brown. Funeral Service at St Mary with St Peter, The Boltons, London SW10 on May 7th at 1 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to the Anglo-Norse Society and Somerville College, Oxford c/o Leverton's, 212 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1BD. Memorial Service to be announced later.

BRUNO - Egidio Giuseppe. The Staff of the London Branch of UniCredito Italiano wish to join their colleagues in Italy in sending their condolences to the family of Dr Beppe Bruno on his passing after a long illness. Dr Bruno who became Managing Director & C.E.O. and Deputy Chairman of the Bank, was also it's Chief Manager in London from 1974 to 1981. Among the many roles which he undertook during this period was the Chairmanship of the Association of European Banks of the current F.B.S.A. He was a well known and popular figure both in the City and the Anglo Italian community in general and will be remembered with great affection by all who knew and worked with him. The Funeral took place in Milan on 26th April 1999.

CALVERT - Denis George Calvert FRCS on April 24th at his home at Pitchcombe, Gloucestershire. Beloved husband of Penny and dear father of David, Sarah and Ian and a much loved grandfather. Funeral Service at Pitchcombe Parish Church on Saturday Mary 1st at 11.00am followed by interment. Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be sent for The Kosovo Relief Fund, c/o Philip Ford & Son Funeral Directors, Dirleton House, Cainscross Road, Stroud.

CARROCHER - William F. Late of the BBC and Diplomatic Service, died peacefully in Hildenborough, Kent on 25th April 1999. Funeral private at his request.

CAWLEY - On April 21st 1999 in King's College Hospital, Robert Hugh, beloved husband of Ann. Private Cremation will be followed by thanksgiving memorial service later in the summer. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Medecins Sans Frontieres c/o Chelsea F/D, 91 Rochester Row, SW1P 1LJ 0171-834 3281.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

CRICHTON - Margaret Watrous of Bowdon, Cheshire, on April 17th 1999. Wife of the late Sir John Robertson Dunn Crichton, beloved mother of Charlotte, John and Benjamin and grandmother of Katie, Louise, Robertson, Michael and James. For funeral details please contact Ashton Brookes Funeral Directors, tel: (0161) 928-7816.

DOUGARY - Joyce, widow of IMD, died peacefully after a long illness on April 23rd, in her 77th year. Will be greatly missed by her daughters Anne and Ginny, sons-in-law Piero Mariggi and Bruce Millar, grandsons Tom and Darcy, and all her many friends. No flowers, please, but donations if desired to Trinity Hospice, 30 Clapham Common North Side, London SW4 0RN (0171-787 1000).

DYER - On 18th April 1999 suddenly in Worthing Hospital John Hilton aged 71 years. Dearly loved husband, father and brother. Funeral Service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, on Thursday 29th April at 1 pm. Flowers or donations to The British Heart Foundation c/o F.A. Holland & Son, 10 Station Parade, Tarring Road, Worthing, tel: (01903) 248900.

FENTON - On 23rd April 1999 at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, Michael James, aged 73, beloved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral private: memorial service to be announced. If wished, donations to The British Home and Hospital for Incurables, Crown Lane, Streatham, London SW16 3JB.

GIBSON - Powburn, Greenfields, formerly of Main Street, Felton, in hospital on 25th April aged 74 years, Margaret, much loved sister of Helen and Catherine. Funeral Service to be held at Christ Church, North Shields, on Thursday April 29th at 1.30 pm, followed by cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to The Parkinson's Disease Society.

GRIFFITHS - Rev. Leonard L.R., R.N.(rtd) of Haslemere, Surrey, on April 25th, aged 90. Husband of Eileen for 64 years, father of Marvyn and Hilary, and grandfather of Jason and Ian. Funeral on Saturday 1st May at St. Bartholomew's Church, Haslemere at 12.30 pm. All enquiries to Luff & Partners, (01428) 643534.

HAKEWILL SMITH - Edith Margaret, widow of Major General Sir Edmund Hakewill Smith, peacefully on April 25th in Peel, Isle of Man.

HAYLEY - Irina, beloved wife of John. On Sunday, April 25th, peacefully. Funeral Service at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium, 3.30 pm, May 4th. No flowers. Donations, if desired, to Hospice of St Peter and St James, Wivelsfield Green. Enquiries to Masters and Son (01444 482107).

KAZOLIDES - Karima passed away on Sunday 25th April at home in Morocco. She will be sadly missed by her husband Kosta, children Nadia, Taki and Miriam, loving family and friends.

KILLANIN - (Dublin), April 25th 1999 at home, Michael Morris 3rd Baron Killanin, most beloved husband of Sheila. Sadly missed by his wife and family. Removal tomorrow Wednesday to the Church of Mary Immaculate Refuge of Sinners, Rathmines arriving 4.45pm, requiem mass at 11.00 am on Thursday. Funeral on Friday after 11 o'clock service at St Enda's Church, Spiddle, Co Galway to Boher mor Cemetery, Galway. No flowers please. Donations in lieu to the R.N.L.I.

LATEY - On Saturday, 24th April 1999, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Latey, M.B.E., peacefully at home after a long illness. Beloved husband for 61 years of Betty, much loved father of Jill and Philip, dearly loved grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Adderbury, Oxon on Saturday, 1st May at 3pm. Family flowers only, but donations if wished to St Christopher's Hospice, Sydenham, London SE26 6DZ. There will be a Memorial Service in London at a date to be announced.

LEWIS - On April 24th 1999 suddenly and peacefully at his home in Painswick, Gloucestershire, Dr. Gordon James Lewis PhD, M.I.C.E. aged 87 years, dearly loved husband of Barbara and loving father of Chris, Virginia and Gillian. Cremation private. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life will take place at 2 pm on Tuesday May 4th at St Mary's Church, Painswick. Family flowers only by request, but donations in his memory may be made to Water Aid, c/o Selim Smith & Co., 74 Prestbury Road, Cheltenham, GL52 2DJ.

MACLEAN - Heather, (formerly Scott Thompson, Winship née Mackenzie), on 23rd April 1999 aged 85. Loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral Tuesday 4th May at 2.30pm, Coldharbour, Surrey. Tel 01433 870399.

MAGGOS - Lynn Patricia (née Mackie) formerly employed as Cabin Crew for British Airways, now living in Gloucestershire. Passed away peacefully in her sleep on Saturday 24th April 1999 having fought very hard to survive cancer. Family and friends all loved her leaving a huge void in their lives. Funeral and burial will be held on Friday 30th April 1999 at 12 noon at St Mary's Church, Hartpury, Gloucestershire. For more information contact Robert and Sandra tel: (01432) 890387.

MANGER - John Norman, passed peacefully away on 26th April. Funeral will be at West Hertfordshire Crematorium, Garston on 30th April at 4pm. Family flowers. Donations if wished to British Red Cross Association, c/o Phillips Funerals, 9 Victoria Road, Harpenden, Herts AL5 4EB. Tel 01582 461100.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

MERCER - Peacefully on 22nd April 1999 after a long illness John of Killay, Swansea, dearly loved husband of Barbara, devoted father of David and the late Susan, and of his son-in-law Robin, much loved by his granddaughters Lucy and Caroline and by his great-grandson James. Funeral Service Friday 30th April, at 10.15 am, at St Paul's Church, Sketty, to be followed by cremation at Swansea Crematorium at 11.30 am. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to The Parkinson's Disease Society, c/o William Pressdee Funeral Directors, 1/2 Stanley Street, Mumbles, Swansea SA3 4NE.

MIDDLETON - The Earl of Mey (former A.D.C. to Lord Louis Mountbatten) died peacefully aged 85 at Park View Residential Home, Warwick on Wednesday April 7th. Loving husband of Phyllis and father of Avril.

MURRAY - Betty, very suddenly on 22nd April 1999. Beloved wife of Ken and mother of Alison and grandmother of her dearest young Max. Betty's death will be a shock and great sadness to so many in the varied circles of a life which has given so much to others. Funeral Service at United Reformed Church, Epsom Road, Leatherhead on Tuesday 4th May 2 pm. Flowers welcome. All enquiries to Hawkins & Sons 01372 372435.

NAYLOR - Olive Lucy (née Johns) aged 88 years, peacefully after a short illness at Lymington Hospital on Saturday, 24th April 1999. Beloved wife of Donald for 59 years, Dearest Mother of Judith, John and Philip, loving Grandmother of Patrick, Penelope, Nicholas, David, Alex and Arabella. A reception will take place on Wednesday, 5th May at Beaulieu Abbey Church Hall at 1.00 p.m. followed by a Service of Thanksgiving in the Abbey Church at 2.00 p.m. Flowers and enquiries to Diamond and Son Funeral Directors, Lymington. 01590 672060.

ROBINSON - On 19th April 1999 in Kitale Hospital, aged 82, Malcolm Sewell, elder son of Harold and Amy. Enquiries to PO Box 1763, Kitale, Kenya.

SAFINIA-MOSTOFI - Mehrvash, died in London on 16th April 1999, a few days before her 82nd birthday; beloved mother of Faramarz, Khosrow and Dariush, she was buried in Iran. A memorial ceremony will be held on Thursday 29th April 1999 at The Royal Society of Medicine, One Wimpole Street, London W1 from 6pm - 8pm.

SALTER - Martin died peacefully at home in Oracle, Arizona on 22nd April after a long and courageous struggle against cancer. A much loved husband, father, grandfather and brother.

SKELTON - Alvin, FRICS, called into the presence of his Lord on April 21st aged 76. A loving husband, father, and grandfather to fifteen. Thanksgiving Service at West Hill Baptist Church, Wandsworth, April 30th at 12 noon. Enquiries, Evershed Bros F/D, Wandsworth High Street, 0181 874 1781.

SMITH - Eric, LVO, OBE, Lt Col (ACF), Ponteland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Peacefully on Saturday 24th April. Former Regional Officer (North East), Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Brother of Enid and the late Robert. Funeral service at Newcastle West Road Crematorium on Wednesday 28th April at 12.45pm.

SMITH - On 23rd April at Canterbury, Harry Horace Leslie, husband of Grace.

STOY - On Friday 16th April 1999, peacefully in his sleep Cmdr I.E.C.F.O. (Fred), Royal Navy. Father of Katherine and John, grandpa to his six grandchildren and great grandpa to his six great grandchildren. A Thanksgiving Service for his life will be held at St Paul's Church, Brackley Road, Beckenham, Kent at 11.00 am on Friday 7th May followed by a private cremation. No flowers. Donations if desired to King George's Fund for Sailors, c/o James W Constable (Funeral Directors), 4 Green Lane, Penge, London SE20 7JA.

OBITUARIES

JILL DANDO

Jill Dando, television presenter, died in Charing Cross Hospital, London, yesterday aged 37, after sustaining fatal injuries outside her home in Fulham. She was born on November 9, 1961.

ALTHOUGH she always claimed to be mystified by the effect she had on the opposite sex — her nickname for herself was "Blando" — Jill Dando in understated two-piece suit probably made more male hearts pound than many a television blonde of more lurid assets. It was the air of efficiency she brought to what she did — the efficiency of a ward sister or WPC — that set pulses racing as well as securing her the respect of her peers in broadcasting.

Jealous female newspaper columnists might be catty about her neat appearance, but it was the message as much as the medium that gave her undeniable strengths as a broadcaster. Such programmes as *Crimewatch*, on which she worked in harness with Nick Ross, require the ability to co-ordinate and present a vast amount of information in intelligible form, in an excitable studio atmosphere which is being continually bombarded with new data. And in an age when so many young women presenters aim to skate by on a diet of barely-literate burbling, "wows" and giggles, Dando brought to her job a lucidity which had, as in so many of the best television presenters, been learnt in print journalism.

Indeed, there were many who felt that in advertising her latest job, presenting BBC Television's *Antiques Inspectors*, by adopting the leather-clad look of a James Bond girl for the cover of *Radio Times*, she was selling herself short. Wholesomeness was, after all, no crime and Ms Dando had no need to be trying to follow in the sultry footsteps of a Honor Blackman.

Jill Dando was born in Weston-super-Mare, with a hole in the heart which was not discovered until she was 18 months old. An operation at Bristol Royal Infirmary corrected the condition and she was able to lead a normal life.

In Weston she attended Worle Comprehensive School and then Broadoak Sixth Form Centre where she became head girl. She left school to study journalism at South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education, returning to her home town for her first job, on the *Weston and Somerset Mercury* which she joined in 1980.

There, she cut her teeth on the diet of council meetings, funerals and flower shows which is the lot of the local reporter, learning in the process the homely but necessary virtues of speed and accuracy.

In 1985 she moved to BBC Radio Devon where she presented the daily breakfast news programme and after a year there she was on the move again to BBC Television South West, to present an evening regional magazine programme.

This gave a much wider field for her talents and in 1988 she moved to London to present BBC TV's *Breakfast News*. From that moment on she was a household name throughout Britain, her blonde good looks earning her the sobriquet "Golden Girl of Television". Professionally she became known as one of a not-so-large clutch of television presenters who are equally at home fronting news, light entertainment and travel programmes. She had soon added the *Six O'Clock News* in which she was a stand-in newscaster, *Crimewatch* and *Holiday* to her portfolio of broadcasting activities.

Holiday, with its unparalleled travel opportunities, was at the furthest remove imaginable from the local paper she had started on. But she was always to say that it was the more gruelling *Crimewatch* which was her favourite. When she had first been invited on to the programme, she had been cautious about becoming a television policewoman, and quizzed its first presenters, Nick Ross and Sue Cook, as to whether either of them had ever been threatened. She was later to say, possibly prophetically: "I was aware that standing up in public doing this job could mean I was putting myself in the firing line. Most people on the programme would rather not be, so you might be seen as a threat." She was indeed the object of some unwelcome attentions.

Dando was involved, among many others, with *Crimewatch* programmes which shed light on the 1996 murders of Lin and Megan Russell and generated the telephone calls which led to the identification of Michael Stone, who was later jailed for life. Her own fortitude on camera was put to its stiffest test when she interviewed Danielle Cable, the 17-year-old fiancée of Steve Cameron, who was stabbed to death in a "road rage" attack on him on an M25 sliproad. "At the end we both went off the set and burst into tears," she later confessed.

In the meantime, the label "Golden Girl of Television" could, as she was soon to find, be as much of a liability as an asset. When, last autumn, it was rumoured that the BBC's *Six O'Clock News* was to be relaunched with her fronting it, there was a swift riposte, with veteran newscasters letting it be known that blondeness rather than gravitas and experience appeared to be the Corporation's criterion in its thinking about the appointment.

The BBC dithered for several weeks. Eventually, angered about a handling of the matter which appeared to cast aspersions on her mental equipment, Dando declared that she would not be considered as a candidate in the circumstances. When the dust settled she found herself in a better position than before, with renewed contracts for *Crimewatch* and further travel series, as well as her latest show *Antiques Investigator*.

She was thought to be wanting to scale down her television activities since her recent engagement to a gynaecologist, Alan Farthing. They were to have been married in the autumn.



Jill Dando: at home presenting a wide range of programmes

RONALD ALLEY

***Ronald Alley*, Keeper of the Modern Collection at the Tate Gallery, 1965-86, died on April 25 aged 73. He was born on March 12, 1926.**

Ronald Alley spent 35 years at the Tate Gallery, becoming the first Keeper of its Modern Collection in 1965. When he arrived at the gallery, its holdings of modern art were still based firmly on the French Impressionist paintings acquired in the 1920s through the Courtaulds. By the time he retired in 1986, he had not only immeasurably transformed the collections, helping in the process to turn the Tate into an important international museum of modern art, but had given an effective lead in introducing the 20th century to other art collections all over Britain. His achievements were recognised in a valedictory exhibition at the Tate in 1986, *Forty Years of Modern Art*.

Educated at Bristol Grammar School, Ronald Edgar Alley was the son of a solicitor's clerk. During the Second World War he was a Bevin Boy. But he was also a born scholar, whose decision not to pursue a career in ornithology but instead to follow art was influenced by Professor Rudolf Wittkower of the Courtauld Institute, the father of his closest friend, and by the *Picasso-Matisse* exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum after the war.

He never lost his love of birds, and nor, happily, did he acquire an over-developed sense of his own dignity, and late at night after dinner he could occasionally be persuaded to give his hilarious rendition of the call of the baby coot.

He studied at the Courtauld Institute of Art, and in 1951 joined the Tate staff as an assistant keeper. He became a deputy keeper three years later, and Keeper of the Modern Collection in 1965.

At that time there was no division between the British and modern collections, and the 20th century was barely represented at all. Alley was determined to make changes. "There weren't any realist or Surrealist works, or abstracts," he later recalled. "It was partly because the gallery had been starved and partly because most of our predecessors didn't like modern art."

He set about collecting contemporary work and filling gaps in holdings of the 20th-century avant garde, from the Fauves through informal abstraction to Minimalism. In 1958 he saw an exhibition of paintings by Jackson Pollock and was immediately struck by their vivacity and originality. He went to New York for the first time in 1960 and found a complete range of new work, returning not only very excited by it, but both sad and angry at the thought of "how stupid people had been in this country in missing the opportunity" to acquire some of the new art for public collections.

He wrote to all the public galleries in Britain in an attempt to compile a list of the national collection of 20th-century art, and was horrified by what he discovered. "There were only three Picassos, not one later than 1903, all small, and only about two Surrealist paintings in the whole lot put together."

He wrote an article in the *Museums Journal* — the Tate would not allow him to write it in a national newspaper for fear of offending other galleries — castigating in unminced words the absence from public collections of "a single painting or sculpture that occupies a key position in the development of 20th-century art".

Along with such critics and curators as Roland Penrose and Herbert Read, and with the support of successive Tate directors Norman Reid and Alan Bowness, Alley was a key figure in countering the persistent British apathy to modern art. He found himself involved in some notable controversies, such as that surrounding Carl Andre's notorious "bricks". He was greatly gratified that the collection he began is now to be given its own museum, the Bankside Tate.

Alley wrote prodigiously, but his monument will be the two volumes of the Tate's catalogue of foreign modern art. He recounted that "on my second day after joining the Tate I was called into the office of Mr Le Roux Smith Le Roux, the deputy keeper". There he was "shown a very rudimentary typescript which was to become a catalogue," and asked if he would be good enough to take it away and look to see if there was anything to add. "I worked on it day and night for about ten years after that," he recalled.

He was particularly a champion of British contemporary work, of Graham Sutherland and of the St Ives artists. He was friendly with Barbara Hepworth, Ben Nicholson, and particularly Patrick Heron, and collected the paintings of William Scott.

He was responsible for the major retrospective of Hepworth's work in 1968, and, with Sir John Rothenstein, wrote the *catalogue raisonné* for Francis Bacon as long ago as 1964. Before his last illness he was able to complete work on the current exhibition of 50 years of British art for the Cecil Higgins Gallery, Bedford, which runs until July.

Although Rothenstein was a mentor and the Tate director under whom he rose rapidly, Alley never quite forgave him for failing to buy Matisse's early *The Red Studio* when it was offered to the Tate for less than £1,000. It would have been a fundamental key to the collection, and it was a mistake Alley himself was never able to remedy, though he did manage to acquire Matisse's *The Snail*. At the end of his career he believed that it was only in Matisse that the collection was still seriously wanting.

He was married to the painter and sculptor Anthea Oswell, who died in 1993. Although they divorced in 1973, she retained a flat at the top of their riverside house in Putney, and he nursed her when she was dying. They remarried on her deathbed. Both their daughters, Fiannetta and Melissa, are painters and survive him.



Ronald Alley at the time of the exhibition marking his retirement from the Tate in 1986, with a work by Roy Lichtenstein

WING COMMANDER DOUGLAS GRICE

Wing Commander Douglas Grice, MBE, DFC, fighter ace, died on March 24 aged 79. He was born on June 15, 1919.

AFTER joining No 32 Squadron while it was still flying biplane fighters in August 1938, Douglas Grice served with it for the rest of his career as an operational pilot, a period of intensive air fighting. After eight combat victories in the Battle of France and the Battle of Britain he was shot down in flames on August 15, 1940, and did not fly on operations again.

A week or two after he had joined No 32, the squadron exchanged its Gauntlets for Hurricanes, a transition which gave Grice not as many problems as some, since he had flown Magister monoplanes at his elementary flying training school at Woodley, near Reading.

When war came the squadron was ready to go and chafing at the bit. Flying from Biggin Hill, Grice and No 32 were soon in the thick of the action in the fierce air battles which raged unseen in the skies high over the British Expeditionary Force as it fought its way back to the sea. On May 18 Grice had his first taste of combat, and came away with a "probable" Messerschmitt 110. Next day there was no room for doubt when he brought down two Me109s — kills which were confirmed. The following day he shot down another Me109 and on the 22nd a fourth, giving him the satisfying tally of four kills in four days. By the time the Battle of France ended he was already an "ace" with five combat victories.

But this was not before he had been shot down once himself. On June 8, while he was attacking a formation of three Heinkel bombers over northern France, he was hit by cannon fire. His glycol coolant tank was punctured and his engine stopped. Gliding down from 9,000 ft he selected a large field and put down in it, fervently hoping he was not in a part of France that had already been overrun by the Germans.

In fact, he had landed near Rouen, still just clear of the advancing German armies. Hot from his exertions and handed what he took to be a glass of water by the commanding officer of a neighbouring British artillery regiment, Grice gratefully gulped it down only to find himself gasping for breath as what was in fact *marc* — a colourless grape spirit — made its fiery way down his throat. A few days later he was back at Biggin Hill ready to rejoin the air battle. Soon after his return he learnt that he had been awarded the DFC.

After a brief lull the Battle of Britain began and Grice had further kills. He was shot down for the second time in July, while engaging a force of three Me109s over Deal. Electing not to bale out since he was over water, he gently guided his Hurricane back over land and put down in a field alongside Sandwich golf course. His final day of combat flying was August 15 when, after shooting down an Me109, he received a hit in his fuel tank from an incendiary bullet. With his aircraft in flames he rolled it over, pushed his cockpit canopy loose and fell out.

He sustained quite severe burns but, as the plastic surgery pioneer Archibald MacIndoe was later to tell him, he was fortunate to have come down in the sea. "You're a lucky chap because you are going to look handsome without any help from me. Thanks to you and others we have discovered that a brine bath is the best treatment for a bad burns case."



After a spell in hospital Grice found that his nerve had gone for operational flying. However, he continued his career as a fighter controller and was lucky enough to be posted to Northolt where a WAAF officer, Pam Beecroft, whom he had long been wooing, was also posted as a cipher officer. They were married in October 1941. Grice spent the rest of the war in staff and fighter controller posts, retiring as a wing commander in 1947. He had been appointed MBE in 1946.

Thereafter he qualified as a solicitor, becoming a partner in the London firm McKenna & Co, where he specialised in construction industry cases. He finally retired in 1982 to enjoy his garden at Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire.

His wife Pam died last year. He is survived by their son and daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS

TOBIN - Dr Joseph, aged 85, (Anaesthetist and General Practitioner) of Welwyn Garden City, after a long illness and a short stay in hospital. Cremation at Harwood Park Crematorium, Stevenage on May 4th at 10.15 am. No flowers. Donations if wished to The Salvation Army c/o J J Burgess & Son, Funeral Directors, Alfred House, The Common, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL10 0ND. Tel 01707 262122.

VARLEY - Patricia on 22nd April peacefully at home in Douglas. Beloved wife of the late Gilbert Alec. Funeral April 28th at 10am. For information telephone Faragher's 01624 673109.

WILLIAMS - Margaret Jean on 24th April 1999 at The Princess Margaret Hospital, Windsor, peacefully after a lengthy illness faced with great courage. Dearly loved and devoted wife of George and much loved mother of Susan and grandmother of Jeremy and Timothy. Following a private cremation service there will be a service of thanksgiving in her memory at St Michael's and All Angels, Church Lane, Sunninghill on Friday 30th April at 1.00pm. Donations in lieu of flowers to MENCAP, 123 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0RT.

WILLIAMS - Thomas Andrew (Tommy), formerly of Highgate and Fulham, peacefully on Thursday 22nd April aged 92. Brother of Elizabeth and Anne, father of Alastair and Andrea, grandfather of Darcey, James and Zaylie. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium on Friday 7th May at 3 pm. No flowers. Donations to Star and Garter Home c/o Holmes & Daughters, 461 Upper Richmond Road, West London, SW14 7PU.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

TILLMAN - Malka (née Elvin) Beloved wife of Mel, treasured sister of Rita. Remembered with love.

BIRTHDAYS

CATHERINE, wishing you a happy birthday and many happy returns! Scott.

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ON THIS DAY

April 27, 1881

It was expected that the great statesman would be accorded a public funeral. But he had directed that his funeral be simple. Protocol forbade the Queen from attending but later in the year she visited his grave.

THE FUNERAL OF LORD BEACONSFIELD

The funeral of the Earl of Beaconsfield, solemnized yesterday on his own estate of Hughenden Manor, in the midst of the pleasant county of Buckinghamshire, with which he had an association so honourable and so enduring, was a touching and affecting spectacle.

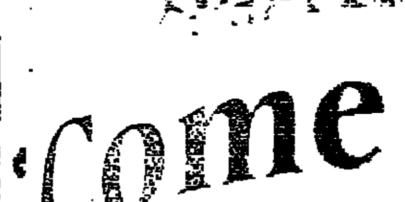
On a green hill side there were collected a greater number, perhaps, of illustrious and well-known personages than ever assembled in one place in the open air so far away from the capital. The first impressive and unmistakable feature of the gathering was the unaffected regret, the sincere and evidently unexaggerated feeling of sorrow and admiration.

The Queen had testified her regret and esteem in many ways, and among others by sending a wreath of wild flowers, primroses plucked in the Isle of Wight, and such as he delighted to see blooming on the grassy banks of Hughenden Park. On a card affixed to this wreath was written, in Her Majesty's own handwriting, "His favourite flowers; from Osborne, a tribute of affection and regret from Queen Victoria".

When the hedge, which flanks a part of the garden had been passed, the way was bordered by the Buckinghamshire Volunteers in dark green uniform. Behind them stood, on the sloping sides of the path, several rows of spectators, all bare-headed, as those who walked in the procession also were. Men and boys had clambered into the trees on each side to see over the rest of the people. The procession passed in silence into the churchyard, where many political personages, and others were collected.

Here the Wycombe Volunteer Fire Brigade, clad in serviceable blue, kept the ground and preserved the graves from being trodden upon, although, in fact, but little was needed to restrain the throng, which was throughout, not orderly merely, but reverent. The well-kept graves, many planted with flowers, make the little God's acre look very sweet and lovable, like the Campo Santo in Rome, of which a hero of Lord Beaconsfield's said that it might make one in love with death to think one should be buried in so sweet a place.

Out of the sunlight the mourners passed into the obscurity of the church. Nearest the congregation were Mr Disraeli, gray-headed, but in other respects resembling his brother, and Mr Coningsby Disraeli; opposite were the Princes of the Royal House. On the vacant seat of the late Earl was laid a wreath of gardenias and maidenhead fern.





Vickers brings down Anelka, the PFA Young Player of the Year, to concede the penalty that set Arsenal on their way to a perfect six on Saturday. Photograph: Allsport

Anelka makes a striking impact at the Riverside

Every Saturday (and, these days, Sunday) evening, supporters gather at overcrowded motorway service stations and in draughty railway buffets to pore over the day's results, digest the consequences (often easier than digesting the food on offer) and work out how many places their team has risen or fallen. Fallen, more often than not.

The snatches of conversation overheard in such situations are the very stuff of football. "So if Bristol City don't win at Crewe on Tuesday, then that means.." "...but don't forget that Port Vale play Bury on the last day ..." "Oxford have played one game more than the others ..." And then it's back on to the M1, or out on to the platform at Crewe. We've all been there and drunk the tea. Or tried to.

Entrants in *The Times* Fantasy League, however, can find out news that affects their teams in the comfort of their own homes. As the scores came in on television this weekend, Donald Henry, a resident of Leicestershire, noticed that a number of players in his Fantasy team, Havock, had enjoyed good days, and yesterday he learned that he had won the weekly prize of £500 plus £100 worth of sports equipment.

Mr Henry, 44, a civil engineer, admits to being a supporter of "Nottingham Forest, I'm afraid", the only nearby top division team when he moved to the East Midlands, although his true loyalties are to Aberdeen. Steve Stone, now with Aston Villa, and Carlton Palmer are the only Forest connections in his 40-point scorers, but there is a local connection: clean sheets against Liverpool and Coventry City meant that six points were contributed by Matt Elliott of Leicester City. "Another Scotsman," Mr Henry laughed. "It's funny when he's interviewed. There's not much brogue there."



David Ginola notched eight points, thanks to two goals and an assist. "Two goals in the last week, his only goals in the league. You get one bit of luck and it all comes your way," Mr Henry said.

The form of Nicolas Anelka was the best news of all: even though he was relegated to the bench for Arsenal's 5-1 victory over Wimbledon last Monday, Anelka returned with a vengeance against Middlesbrough at the Riverside Stadium on Saturday.

He was fouled by Steve Vickers for the first goal, Marc Overmars putting away the penalty kick, he scored twice himself and gained a further assist. That's ten points to you, if you had the enigmatic young Frenchman in your team. His award of PFA Young Player of the Year on top of all this might persuade him that his future lies at Highbury rather than on the bench at the Nou Camp.

Other points-scorers in the Havock team were Alan Wright (5), Mart Poom and Frank Leboeuf (3), Eyal Berkovic (2) and Steve Watson (1). Big Carlton and Darren Huckerby failed to trouble the scorers.

□ Even if your team cannot match Mr Henry's 40 points, you still have a chance to win a cash prize in the ON-Target competition. If your team total based on the player lists (right) is 11, 12 or 13, follow the instructions below and you could win £500.

□ For legal reasons, *The Times* Fantasy League is no longer able to accept entries from players under 18 years of age. Players 17 years and under already registered in the main and youth leagues will, however, be allowed to remain in the competition.

Defenders beware of goal hunters

This week, managers in *The Times* Fantasy League found the secret of how to penetrate the Arsenal defence. Wimbledon and Middlesbrough allowed the Gunners a five and six-goal start respectively before both teams hit back with a consolation. This would be considered meaningless in Premiership terms, but it is all so important in the world of Fantasy League.

The end of the season usually provides us with a feast of goals, mid-table sides choosing to play flowing football rather than paying full attention to keeping clean sheets. In fact, the highest-scoring weekend in Premiership history was on the last weekend of the 1992/93 season, when an amazing 53 goals in 11 games were scored. Defenders beware!

The quest to become the top Fantasy League points scorer is also reaching its climax. With Michael Owen unable to add to his existing tally of 18 goals, Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke are all hot on his heels.

However, there is no doubt regarding the identity of the most in-form striker. Kevin Campbell's return to England has been marked with six goals and three assists in April for a mightily impressive 24 points.

With Francis Jeffers, his Everton strike partner, amassing 13 points in the same period, this duo represents the best possible Fantasy League strikeforce over the past month.

Another successful recent arrival to the shores of England is Nwankwo Kanu, of Arsenal, who has contributed three goals and two assists during the past week.

Together with Nicolas Anelka's two goals and two assists against Middlesbrough, these two proved that they provide a significant threat up front for the Gunners, even without the presence of Dennis Bergkamp.

MATT SIMS

FANTASY LEAGUE LEADERBOARD

1	Nicholas Keighley	These Eat Beans	395
2	Mike Shipley	Minor Threat 15	389
3	Phil Clarke	Shabadi United	387
4	Mike Shipley	Minor Threat	385
5	James Kerr	Serious Squad	380
6	Matthew O'Neil	The M Team	378
6	Phil Tusler	Peter 7	378
8	Brian Payne	Cosmopolitan Iii	376
8	Mark Coles	Joe Public	376
10	Thomas Bailey	Rural Raiders	374
11	Robert Little	Broken Arrow	373
12	Sarosh Daruwala	Scorch	372
13	Phil Tusler	Pin-Ups 7	370
14	Sarabjot Kohli	Junglemen	369
14	David Mead	In The City	369
16	Jennifer Cockburn	Yeah Right!	368
17	Paul O'Neill	Four Four Two	367
18	Darren Sawyer	Finchleyallstars	366
18	L Samuels	Spartak Mossley	366
20	Robin Harrington	Chequers Champs	365
20	David Wise	Walsall Reserves	365
20	Michael Matejtschuk	Bandidos Darsene	365
23	David Young	Dave 10	364
23	David Edmondson	Edmo Utd Mington	364
23	Philip Morton	Skilli Vanili	364
23	Scott Brett	Scotts Stars	364
27	Arthur Gaunt	Harrogate Eleven	363
28	Allan Purdy	Als Bandits	362
28	Nathan Carroll	Nath's Champs	362
28	Richard Deane	On The Wagon	362
31	Andrew Williams	Andrew's Aces	361
31	Terry Bullen	El Tel's Revenge	361
31	Simon Lowe	Janices Heroes	361
31	Peter Leathem	Spike Town	361
31	Gavin Smith	Green Army	361
36	Andrew Colyer	Splitters	360
36	Simon Gray	The Walker	360
38	Jason Wynne	Taffys Terrors	359
38	Raymond George	Razor D	359
38	Neil Edwards	Norfolk Enhance	359
38	Stephen Beales	Croft Rangers	359
42	Rajiv Kothari	Millenlumbuggers	358
43	Lucy Crosthwaite	I Hate Football	357
43	Phil Marshall	I Ate All The Pi	357
43	John Miner	Melodymaker	357
43	Jwalant Popat	Popat's Army	357
47	Ron Allport	Cyclones	356
47	Michael Scaife	Allidotswash&go	356
49	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	355
49	Paul Bambridge	Franklyfantastic	355
49	Steve Ball	Earthshock	355
49	Naomi Cartwright	The Carthorses	355
49	Tom Summers	Ganichou	355
49	Tim Gardner	Harchester Who?	355

YOUTH LEAGUE LEADERS

1	Matthew O'Neil	The M Team	378
2	Sarabjot Kohli	Junglemen	369
3	Jwalant Popat	Popat's Army	357
4	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	355
4	Tom Summers	Ganichou	355
6	Stephen Bailey	Stevies Wonders	354
6	Alexander Thackray-Norris	Finchmeadrovers	354
8	Matthew Watson	Matts Magic	352
9	Paul Williams	Where Was Gazza	349
10	Dominic McDonnell	Birchall Bullets	347

Are you on target to win £500?

Congratulations to Mr T Russell, of Southsea, the main winner of ON-Target from last week. Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now — or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. *The Times* has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned Fifa 99 game. Every week you could win:

- 1st prize: £500 plus EA Sports Pack
- 4 runners-up: EA Sports Packs
- 10 additional runners-up: Fifa 99 CD-Rom.

Each EA Sports Pack contains: Fifa 99 for the PlayStation; Fifa 99 for the PC; EA Sports T-Shirt, keyring and mini football plus a record bag.

If you already have a team in the main game, you are ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line will put you in the draw to win one of the 15 prizes. You can enter at any time and there is no limit to how many teams you can enter.

HOW TO ENTER: Look up your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the checkline 0640 625 102. If your total score for this week matches the ON-Target number(s), then call our claim line on **0870 901 4270** (calls, charged at national rate, should last about a minute). Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tuesday morning.

If you have scored the correct number of points AND called the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper the following Tuesday to see if you have won.

Managers with the correct points who have *not* called the claim line will not be entered. Calls that are incomplete, inaudible or invalid will not be entered. All teams in the draw must conform to the main game rules.

Last week's winners

Mr T Russell, of Southsea, Hants (£500 plus EA Sports Pack). **Mr R Williams**, of Haywards Heath, W Sussex, **Mr Barrett**, of Tamworth, Staffs, **Steven Demptow**, of London SW6, **Mrs S Raider**, of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, (EA Sports Packs). **Simon Fletchur**, of Worthing, W Sussex, **Susan Fraizer**, of Sutton, Surrey, **Ms A Brown**, of Egham, Surrey, **John Stewart**, of Harlow, Essex, **Mr C Islamb**, of London N7, **Mr P Starke**, of Whitstable, Kent, **Michael Bennet**, of Towcester, Northants, **Thomas Walsh**, of London SE16, **Tony Low**, of Sheffield, **Mr P Darwish**, of Alton, Hants (Fifa 99 CD-Roms)

THIS WEEK'S ON-TARGET SCORE

Has your team scored...

11, 12 or 13

points?
Check your total, then ring
0870 901 4270
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4270)
Calls charged at national rates

CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Columns show: code, name, club, weekly points, total points, valuation(*m*).

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Value
102	D Seaman	ARS	0	43	3.7
146	A Manninger	ARS	0	12	3.4
139	M Bosnich	AST	0	17	3.2
140	M Oakes	AST	3	4	2.9
144	A Rachel	AST	0	-1	2.6
108	J Filan	BLA	-2	-8	2.8
126	A Fettis	BLA	0	6	2.5
127	T Flowers	BLA	0	-3	3.1
104	S Ilic	CHA	0	-11	2.3
105	M Salmon	CHA	0	0	2.2
106	A Petterson	CHA	-6	-7	2.2
134	S Royce	CHA	0	10	2.2
137	D Kharine	CHE	0	0	2.9
138	E De Goey	CHE	0	34	3.2
145	K Hitchcock	CHE	3	4	2.6
107	S Ogrizovic	COV	0	-1	2.4
117	M Hedman	COV	0	-3	2.6
103	R Hoult	DER	0	-2	2.3
153	M Poom	DER	3	9	2.5
112	P Gerrard	EVE	0	0	2.4
114	S Simonsen	EVE	0	0	2.7
118	T Myhre	EVE	0	17	2.6
113	N Martyn	LEE	0	23	3.1
125	P Robinson	LEE	0	4	2.7
123	K Keller	LEI	6	15	2.9
124	P Arphexad	LEI	0	1	2.8
122	B Friedel	LIV	0	-1	3.3
131	D James	LIV	0	4	3.3
116	P Schmeichel	MAN	0	14	4.0
121	R Van Der Gouw	MAN	0	7	3.5
109	M Schwarzer	MID	-5	15	2.7
110	B Roberts	MID	0	0	2.4
111	M Beresford	MID	0	-3	2.5
141	S Given	NEW	0	4	3.0
142	L Perez	NEW	0	0	2.7
143	S Harper	NEW	0	2	2.5
119	D Beasant	NOT	0	-24	2.7
120	M Crossley	NOT	-1	-1	2.6
136	K Pressman	SHE	0	7	2.5
149	M Clarke	SHE	0	0	2.2
150	P Srnicek	SHE	3	5	2.3
147	N Moss	SOU	3	0	2.2
148	P Jones	SOU	0	-6	2.4
128	I Walker	TOT	-1	16	2.8
154	H Segers	TOT	0	0	2.4
155	E Baardsen	TOT	0	3	2.6
129	C Forrest	WES	0	0	2.5
130	S Hislop	WES	0	14	2.7
132	N Sullivan	WIM	-4	-10	2.5
135	P Heald	WIM	0	0	2.3

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Value
203	R Garde	ARS	0	14	3.5
204	L Dixon	ARS	2	52	4.1
205	N Winterburn	ARS	4	42	4.2
260	D Grondin	ARS	0	3	3.4
261	N Vivas	ARS	-1	14	3.7
209	A Wright	AST	5	24	3.7
804	M Delaney	AV	0	0	2.8
211	G Croft	BLA	-2	-2	3.2
248	C Davidson	BLA	0	6	3.1
262	J Kenna	BLA	0	-2	3.5
221	C Powell	CHA	-6	2	2.7
240	D Mills	CHA	-3	13	2.6
241	M Bowen	CHA	-3	-3	2.7
242	S Brown	CHA	0	8	2.5

Come in No 30,508, your time is up



Here, exclusive to *The Times*, are the final set of finishers under the ChampionChip timing system in the 1999 Flora London Marathon. The information is provided by EDS, official *suppliers of computers* to the race, and today includes all those who ran between 5hr 56min 49sec and 7hr 38min 44sec, when the automatic timing system closed.

W Ratcliffe 6:05:38; R Packer 6:05:39; F Frank 6:05:39; M Davis 6:05:40; D Kitchen 6:05:43; J Trolland 6:05:43; G Martin 6:05:44; R Clarke 6:05:50; S Tm 6:05:53; S Maxey 6:05:53; J Davison 6:05:54; S Chorley 6:05:56; W Nixon 6:05:57; W Nixon 6:05:58; S Yussuff 6:05:59; J Gage 6:06:00; N Griffiths 6:06:01; C Senior 6:06:05; C Flint 6:06:07; T Lu 6:06:08; M Graham 6:06:10; G Antioch 6:06:11; G Shelvey 6:06:14; S Taylor 6:06:16; C Easton 6:06:20; V White 6:06:20;

Cold showers provide total refreshment for the competitors in the Marathon as they run round the London Arena



THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Jill Dando shot dead

Police hunting the killer of Jill Dando, the BBC television presenter, were last night investigating known-celebrity stalkers and people with a grudge against the Crimewatch UK programme she hosted. Miss Dando was shot dead in broad daylight on the doorstep of her £400,000 terraced home in Fulham, west London, at about 11.30 yesterday morning.........Pages 1-3

Nato seizes on dissent in Belgrade

■ Tony Blair and other Nato leaders seized on the first signs of a serious rift in Belgrade after the Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister called on the regime to stop lying to the people. George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said that President Milosevic's regime was beginning to crack under the united pressure of the alliance and that an interview given by Vuk Draskovic "blew a hole in the facade of Belgrade unity"......Pages 1, 13-15

Big Tam to the rescue

Sean Connery's role was not to save a country, capitalism, or even a girl, but a flagging election campaign. At 68, he is long past the age when he outwitted the world's villains. But 007 was back on duty yesterday, called out of retirement by the Scottish National Party..........Pages 1, 7

'Rural poor' warning

Britain's rural poor risk being neglected as business and ministers pour money into inner city regeneration, the Prince of Wales claims today. He believes that politicians and business leaders should take a more active role in helping rural residents to diversify economically..................Page 4

Tories in open revolt

William Hague faced the first signs of open revolt at the Conservatives' jettisoning of its Thatcherite past with a direct assault on his leadership.....Page 4

Law in plain English

Lawyers entered their brave new world of plain English and no Latin tags — with mixed success. Within hours of the start of new reforms, lawyers had fallen foul of the rules.........................Page 5

Anger at police poster

A controversial poster campaign using shock tactics to tackle racism in police stations has been launched, in spite of objections by black police........................Page 8

Labour tips backlash

The Labour Party is bracing for a record-low voter turnout and the loss of up to 1,500 seats in next month's local elections as public dissatisfaction with corruption in town halls and indifference towards council politics reach a peak................................Page 10

Party politics scandal

Two students have been disqualified from senior positions in the Oxford Union after being found guilty of electoral malpractice for holding a birthday party two days before polling..........Page 11

Killers planned more

The devastation at Columbine High School last week was the first stage of a broad campaign of terror planned by the two teenage gunmen, it has emerged. They had hoped to kill 500 pupils and teachers, hijack an airliner and crash it on a major city...Page 16

Dutch football riot

Police in Rotterdam fired into a crowd of rioting football fans, wounding four, one critically. Another 12 people, including four police officers, suffered injuries, in the Sunday night riots ... Page 17

Vatican turns to spies

The Vatican is to recruit secret agents from Western intelligence services to improve security in the Holy See and protect the Pope during the Holy Year celebrations in 2000.........................Page 17

Live Aid relived for the millennium

■ Fourteen years after Live Aid, the world's top musicians are uniting for a millennium concert to help the Third World. Harvey Goldsmith, the Live Aid promoter, is organising simultaneous concerts in London, New York and Geneva in October. He hopes one billion people will message politicians through the Internet, urging them to remove Third World debt......Page 11



PAUL DODDS

William Wallace, a 37-year-old telephone engineer, launched a bid for the anorak vote in the Scottish elections yesterday. Report, page 7

BUSINESS

B&B conversion: More than 62 per cent of the 1.5 million votes cast by members of Britain's second largest building society, Bradford & Bingley, opted for converting the mutually-owned organisation into a listed bank.............................Page 27

Co-op merger: Britain's two largest co-operative grocery chains are to merge their buying power and take on rival supermarkets in a £4.5 billion deal............................Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 75.6 points to 6503.6. The pound fell 0.41 cents to $1.6128 but increased 0.07p against the euro to 65.73p. The sterling index was unchanged at 104.2...............................Page 30

SPORT

Football: Kevin Keegan, the England coach, scoffed at suggestions that there was little point in the international match against Hungary on Wednesday...............Page 52

Cricket: World Cup organisers said that plans in place would prevent a repeat of the scenes that tarnished the one-day series between West Indies and Australia..............Page 52

Snooker: Ronnie O'Sullivan beat Joe Perry to earn a place in the quarter-finals of the Embassy world championship......................Page 50

Rugby league: Shaun Edwards will play in a record eleventh Silk Cut Challenge Cup final on Saturday for London Broncos....Page 49

ARTS

Live gigs: Pontin's at Camber Sands hosts the first Bowlie Weekender, an indie music festival; Arizona's Howe Gelb in Dublin; and old rockers in London....... Page 36

Big Screen USA: Mike "Four Weddings" Newell's latest movie, *Pushing Tin*, stars John Cusack and Cate Blanchett...................Page 37

Oronooko flows: The Nigerian writer Biyi Bandele explains the poetry used to adapt Aphra Behn's novel about slavery.............Page 38

Goose steps: Hampstead hosts the world premiere of an intriguing play focusing on the relationship between Rudolf Hess and his Spandau prison guard...... Page 38

FEATURES

Farewell: Grace Bradberry on the life and violent death of the television presenter Jill Dando.. Page 18

Medicine Chest: "Once the girth of the waist is known, someone — patient or doctor — has an immediate idea of whether they are dealing with obesity." Dr Thomas Stuttaford on weight-watching....Page 18

The go-between: In the second extract from his memoirs, the former Tory minister George Walden describes the euphemisms needed for a diplomatic go-between....Page 19

LAW

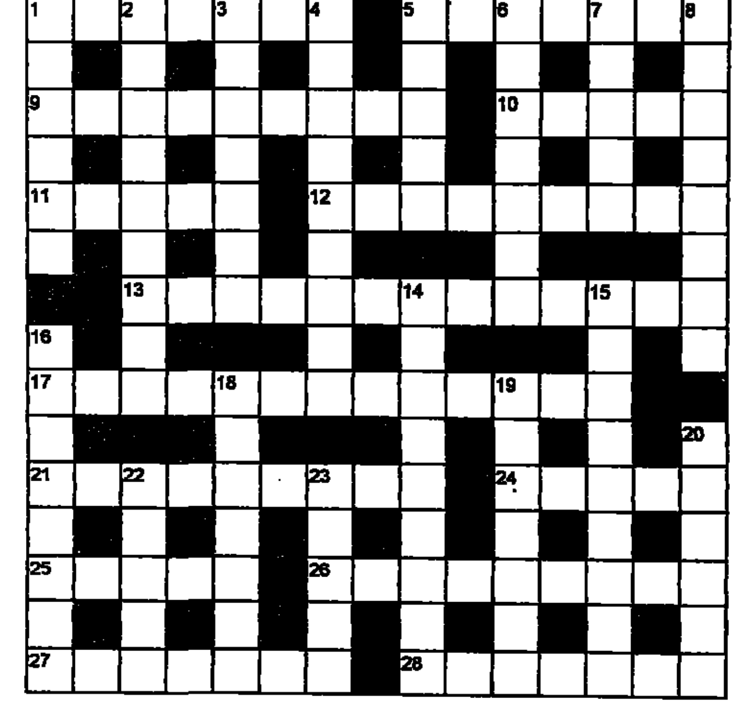
Revolution: Reforms of the civil justice system come into effect this week. Out goes costly, drawn-out, litigation procedures with lawyers indulging in trial by combat — in comes a speedy, cost-sensitive system...............................Page 39

Law awards: The winners of the Times/Justice Law Award include the late Peter Duffy..........Page 41

THE PAPERS

Maybe the lesson of the Trench Coat Mafia is this: either give kids uniforms, or they'll make their own. A uniform policy, which exists to make clothing unimportant to impressionable young minds, or at least a standard dress code, deserves wider debate in the United States.

The New York Post





TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **INTERFACE**
Teddy bears on the Net — how the Internet site EBay became the world's largest online auctioneer

■ **HOMES**
Why Irish eyes are not the only ones smiling about property prices

RADIO & TV

Preview: A new series which examines British society through the history of its clothes. *Ready To Wear: Suit U Sir* (BBC2, 9pm) **Review:** Joe Joseph is unimpressed with a new dramatisation of Diana Dors' life ....Pages 50, 51

OPINION

Troubled waters

To stop a ship on the high seas is an act of war. That would be the legal implication of stopping say, a Russian vessel. And the alliance is also pointing its guns at a phantom target.................................Page 21

Fate worse than debt

Where there is a pinnacle, there is a precipice. So, as expectations for a new millennium mount, it is unsurprising that a sense of disquiet should also stir...................Page 21

Life is a cabernet

The recognition that wine is good for you should be welcomed as a small corrective against the many health scares overshadowing the good things in life.............Page 21

COLUMNS

LIBBY PURVES

We have an obligation to Kosovan refugees. Government has to accept it, and to accept also that some electors, whether Knightsbridge boulevardiers or pub fascists, won't like it. In the old army adage, if you can't take a joke, then you shouldn't have joined.........................Page 20

MICHAEL GOVE

Of all the curious places in which politicians find themselves, whether on *Good Morning with Richard and Judy* or a Thai massage parlour in Northampton, no location seems to me to be so undignified as "in the centre"...................Page 20

PATRICK WEST

It is Scotland that binds the whole Union together. Which is why a radical option should be mooted: if Scotland becomes independent, it should take Ulster.............Page 20

OBITUARIES

Jill Dando, television presenter; *Ronald Alley*, keeper of the modern collection at the Tate Gallery; *Wing Commander Douglas Grice*, fighter ace.................................Page 23

LETTERS

Tory commitment to public services; Nato strategy and stamina to succeed; smacking children; community violence; millennium denial; nut allergy; Latin and Italian; marriage proposals............Page 27

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,088

ACROSS
1 Having made a mistake, like fallen gymnast, perhaps (3,4).
5 Indian drivers whose charges are heavy (7).
9 Vessel for the fleet (9).
10 Double portrait (5).
11 In South of France, a new home for some Africans (5).
12 Detect threat to king in random test (4,5).
13 Short-term gain involving sacrifice – pet goat, possibly? (4,2,7).
17 Author and explorer getting together in novel setting (9,4).
21 Carrier that enables one to make a clean getaway (6,3).
24 A word of comfort in that situation (5).
25 Person sought in game to beat king (5).
26 Grim army doctors given a little time extremely far from the front (9).
27 Missile soldiers installed in new depot (7).
28 Drop off something in short supply in various quarters (7).

DOWN
1 Bosses out to dominate one's mind (6).
2 Part of 17 the other way round? That could be a slip (9).
3 Conclusions reached by kings without queens, often (7).
4 Gem of Victorian literature (9).
5 Saw German supporting mark (5).
6 Shock treatment feared by Damocles? (7).
7 Objectively, we must have time to find employment (5).
8 How, in one case, a dangerous band was spotted (8).
14 Lines on which people have descended from pier's edge, perhaps (9).
15 Limited cover for a low joint (5,4).
16 To break strike is very successful achievement (5-3).
18 Original clothing supplier (3,4).
19 Girl upset by insect's feeler (7).
20 Scientist in the modern style (6).
22 Class instruction (5).
23 Heavily hit ring in wrestling tournament (5).

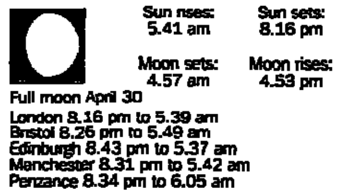
Solution to Puzzle No 21,087

MAQUIS SOBSTORY
FLOWERGIRL PASS
TAILBACK SORTIE
TAXI OLYMPIAN
BRIGHTON OVER
IGUANA SOUVENIR
SNUG THUMBSCREW
BEARINGS TELLER

A telephone service to enable readers to check their crossword answers will begin on Monday, May 3, not this week as stated in yesterday's paper.

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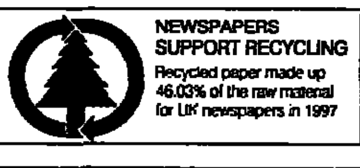
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HOURS OF DARKNESS



Sun rises: 5.41 am — Sun sets: 8.16 pm
Moon sets: 4.57 am — Moon rises: 4.53 pm
Full moon April 30
London 8.16 pm to 5.39 am
Bristol 8.26 pm to 5.49 am
Edinburgh 8.43 pm to 5.37 am
Manchester 8.31 pm to 5.42 am
Penzance 8.34 pm to 6.05 am





FORECAST

☐ **General:** much of England and Scotland will start cloudy but many places will brighten up. Best sunny spells in west.
☐ **London, SE England, E Midlands:** damp start, becoming dry and brighter. Sunny spells later, chiefly to west. Max 14-17C (57-63F).
☐ **E Anglia, E England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** drizzly and misty, becoming brighter to west. Max 12-15C (55-59F), colder on coast.
☐ **Cent S England, SW England:** mostly cloudy, brighter by afternoon. Windy in exposed areas. Max 13-16C (55-61F).
☐ **Channel Islands:** overcast and windy, with some rain or drizzle. Max 13C (55F).
☐ **W Midlands, Wales, NW England, Lake District, Central N:** after cloudy start, any drizzle will clear and it will brighten up. Sunny spells by afternoon, Max 14-17C (57-63F).
☐ **Isle of Man, N Ireland:** drizzle will soon go leaving sunny spells. Max 14-17C (57-63F).
☐ **Republic of Ireland:** dry and bright with some sun. Max 14 to 16C (57 to 61C)
☐ **Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** mostly cloudy, brightening a little inland. Max 10-13C (50-55F).
☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland:** after early cloud, long sunny spells. Max 14-17C (57-63F).
☐ **Cent Highlands:** cloudy, misty start with fog patches. Any drizzle clearing then some sun. Max 13-16C (55-61F).
☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** mostly cloudy but dry. Brighter for a while. Max 9-10C (48-50F).
☐ **Outlook:** south-east will stay cloudy tomorrow. Mostly brighter elsewhere.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, ds=dust storm, du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, g=gales, h=hail; r=rain, sh=shower, sl=sleet, s=sun, t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.01	11	52	fg
Anglesey	-	0.33	13	55	r
Aspatria	7.0	0.01	13	55	r
Aviemore	10.2	-	17	63	s
Belfast	6.7	0.02	15	59	s
Birmingham	0.3	0.23	14	57	r
Bognor R	1.6	0.07	18	64	r
Bournemth	1.2	0.12	17	63	c
Bristol	0.3	0.14	15	59	c
Buxton	0.5	0.14	12	54	b
Cardiff	0.3	x	15	59	r
Clacton	7.2	x	14	57	s
Cleethorpes	1.3	0.15	12	54	r
Colwyn Bay	-	0.08	13	55	c
Cromer	2.3	0.01	12	54	fg
Eastbourne	5.0	0.07	17	63	b
Edinburgh	-	0.01	9	48	d
Eskdalemuir	0.4	0.01	10	50	d
Exmouth	3.4	0.26	14	57	b
Folkestone	5.1	-	18	64	s
Glasgow	0.3	0.01	13	55	du
Guernsey	9.2	0.08	16	61	s
Hastings	3.5	0.03	19	66	s
Hayling I.	1.2	0.11	18	64	sh
Herne Bay	6.0	-	15	59	s
Hove	4.2	0.01	14	57	b
Hunstanton	1.9	-	13	55	c
Isle of Man	4.6	0.03	16	61	s
Isle of Wight	2.7	0.13	17	63	b
Jersey	8.0	0.18	17	63	s
Kinloss	6.4	-	13	55	s
Leeds	0.3	0.01	13	55	c
Lerwick	10.7	-	13	55	s
Leuchars	-	0.01	11	52	du
Littlehampton	1.5	0.07	17	63	sh
London	3.4	0.01	18	64	b
Lowestoft	2.7	-	12	54	c
Manchester	0.1	0.01	14	57	c
Margate	4.4	-	14	57	s
Morecambe	2.1	-	15	59	b
Newcastle	-	0.01	9	48	r
Newquay	6.5	-	15	59	b
Norwich	5.6	0.02	15	59	sh
Oxford	-	0.31	16	61	r
Penzance	7.6	0.01	16	61	s
Poole	-	0.15	16	61	c
Prestatyn	0.3	0.08	15	59	r
Ross on Wye	-	0.54	13	55	t
Saunton Sands	0.3	0.01	15	59	du
Scarborough	1.9	0.01	9	48	fg
Shrewsbury	0.2	0.12	16	61	r
Skegness	2.8	-	11	52	c
Southport	x	0.01	16	61	b
Southsea	2.3	0.06	18	64	r
Stornoway	11.6	-	14	57	s
Swanage	0.5	0.17	15	59	sh
Tenby	-	0.06	13	55	sh
Tiree	10.4	-	16	61	s
Torquay	3.9	0.12	16	61	s
Weymouth	4.1	0.50	16	61	s

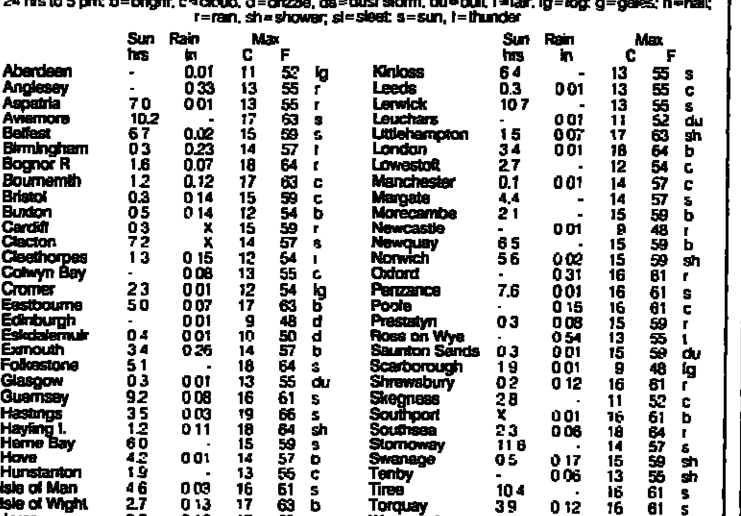
Extremes (Sunday): lowest day max: Inverbervie (Aberdeenshire) Shap Fell (Cumbria) 8C (46F), highest rainfall: Cardinham (Cornwall) 1.97in; highest sunshine: Clacton (Essex) 11.1hr.

ABROAD

	C	F	
Ajaccio	17	63	f
Akrotiri	27	81	s
Alex'dria	24	75	s
Algiers	25	77	s
Amst'dm	15	59	c
Athens	17	63	c
Bahrain	31	88	s
Bangkok	34	93	f
Barbados	29	84	f
Barcelona	17	63	c
Beijing	23	73	s
Beirut	20	68	f
Belgrade	14	57	f
Berlin	18	64	f
Bermuda	18	64	f
Biarritz	15	59	c
Bordeaux	19	66	f
Brussels	15	59	f
Budapest	13	56	f
B Aires	17	63	c
Cairo	29	84	s
Cape Tn	22	72	s
Chicago	14	57	s
Cologne	15	59	f
C'phagn	14	57	s
Corfu	15	59	r
Dublin	9	48	r
Dubrovnik	15	59	s
Faro	19	66	f
Florence	18	64	f
Frankfurt	16	61	f
Funchal	22	72	s
Geneva	13	55	s
Gibraltar	22	72	s
Helsinki	15	59	f
Hong K	29	84	s
Innsbruck	16	61	f
Istanbul	21	70	s
Jeddah	33	91	s
Jo'burg	17	63	c
L Palmas	24	75	s
Le Tquet	15	59	f
Lisbon	18	64	f
Locarno	19	66	f
L Angeles	16	61	s
Luxembg	13	55	f
Luxor	35	95	s
Madrid	19	66	f
Majorca	19	66	s
Malaga	17	63	s
Malta	17	63	f
Melbourne	15	59	s
Mexico C	26	79	s
Miami	31	88	s
Milan	21	70	s
Montreal	13	55	s
Moscow	19	66	s
Munich	15	59	c
Nairobi	23	73	c
Naples	17	63	f
N Delhi	38	100	s
N York	14	57	s
Nice	17	63	s
Oslo	14	57	c
Paris	15	59	f
Perth	20	68	s
Prague	15	59	r
Reykjavik	9	48	c
Rhodes	23	73	s
Rio de J	25	77	f
Riyadh	38	100	s
Rome	17	63	s
Salzburg	14	57	f
S Frisco	12	54	f
Santiago	13	55	f
S Paulo	X		
Seoul	27	81	s
Singapore	31	88	f
Stockholm	12	54	c
Strasb'rg	17	63	f
Sydney	19	66	s
Tangier	19	66	s
Tel Aviv	23	73	f
Tenerife	24	75	s
Tokyo	20	68	c
Toronto	15	59	s
Tunis	21	70	f
Valencia	22	72	s
Vanc'ver	12	54	s
Venice	19	66	s
Vienna	16	61	f
Warsaw	11	52	r
Wash'ton	15	59	s
Zurich	13	55	c

Temperatures at midday local time Sunday. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: high B will slowly slip southeast, declining slightly. low J will run east; low K is expected to remain in situ, with pressure unchanged

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	11:31	3.8	-	-
Avonmouth	5:00	11.9	17:30	12.1
Belfast	8:54	3.3	21:40	3.1
Cardiff	4:46	11.0	17:16	11.3
Devonport	3:41	4.9	16:12	4.9
Dover	9:12	6.0	21:24	6.2
Dublin	9:48	3.9	22:18	3.8
Falmouth	3:12	4.7	15:43	4.7
Greenock	10:23	3.1	23:12	3.0
Harwich	9:51	3.7	22:09	3.5
Holyhead	8:28	5.1	20:57	5.0
Hull (Albert D)	4:24	7.7	16:32	8.0
Ilfracombe	3:53	8.2	16:19	8.3
King's Lynn	4:21	5.8	16:26	5.9
Leith	0:31	4.9	12:53	5.0
Liverpool	9:15	8.5	21:41	8.6
London Bridge	11:57	6.9	-	-
Lowestoft	7:58	2.3	19:42	2.3
Margate	10:19	4.4	22:28	4.4
Milford Haven	4:08	6.1	16:32	6.2
Newquay	3:02	6.1	15:27	6.2
Oban	4:09	3.4	16:26	3.4
Penzance	2:33	4.9	14:59	4.9
Portland	4:15	1.5	16:54	1.6
Portsmouth	9:24	4.1	21:47	4.3
Shoreham	9:14	5.4	21:44	5.7
Southampton	9:08	4.0	21:31	4.3
Swansea	4:15	11.3	16:39	11.4
Tees	1:32	9.4	13:43	9.5
Walton-On-Naze	9:48	3.9	22:04	3.9

All times GMT Heights in metres



THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY APRIL 27 1999

2

Carpetbaggers victorious as 62 per cent opt for conversion and possible £1,000

Bradford & Bingley members vote for windfalls

BY SUSAN EMMETT

MORE than three million savers and borrowers with the Bradford & Bingley Building Society are set to receive windfalls of up to £1,000 each after 62 per cent of members who voted opted for conversion to a stock market quoted bank.

The result, in which 63 per cent of the society's 2.5 million eligible voting members cast their vote, represents a resounding defeat for the society's board, which ran a £5m campaign promoting mutuality.

Savers and borrowers — whose numbers swell to more than three million when children and other ineligible members are included — will, however, have to wait at least another year before they receive their windfalls.

Christopher Rodrigues, chief executive, and a vociferous supporter of mutuality, said after yesterday's annual meeting that he would not be stepping down. "When I joined Bradford & Bingley, I thought it had great potential," he said. "I still think it has great potential."

But Stephen Major, the Northern Ireland plumber who put forward the pro-conversion resolution, said he would be withdrawing completely as he had no interest in becoming a member of the board. After the result he said: "I played it low key and kept out of the limelight. I think that is what swayed it."

The result — the first time a society's board has been defeated on a motion to convert — raises questions over the future of other building societies.

Nationwide, the UK's largest building society, which has already defeated two motions to convert, remained defiant yesterday. It said: "It is by no means inevitable that other societies will have to convert. Bradford & Bingley didn't pursue any policy for keeping out potential windfall seekers."

Graham Leftwich, a spokesman for Britannia, said: "The decision is disappointing, but it is simply a poll of Bradford & Bingley members. It has no bearing on Britannia's future."

Commentary.......................29

David Anderson, chief executive of Yorkshire Building Society, said: "The vote suggests that Bradford & Bingley has attracted huge numbers of speculators over the past few years." He added that the result was not entirely surprising, given that Bradford & Bingley is the only large society that has been offering a possible windfall to new account holders.

One spokesman for a smaller building society, however, conceded: "As much as I hate to admit it, this vote means that carpetbagging will be back with a vengeance. People will be looking for the next target to go for."

Mr Rodrigues blamed the defeat on lower savings rates and said a considerable proportion of non-carpetbaggers had also voted for conversion.

Angela Carr, a saver living near Bingley who attended yesterday's meeting, said: "The interest rates are very, very poor. They don't stand up. It would take me years to get £500 for my savings."

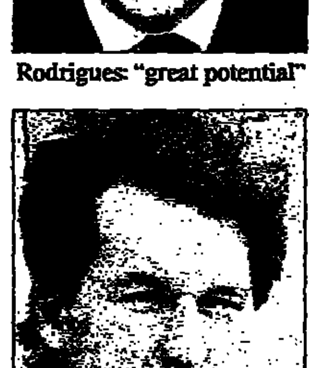
The result has also raised questions over whether the society, which could have a value of about £2.5 billion, would float as an independent entity or be sold to any of the acquisitive players in the sector. Lloyds TSB as well as AXA, the French financial services giant, are cited as likely predators.

A spokesman for Bradford & Bingley said: "The board has to consider any reasonable approaches. It would not be surprising if there were some."

LINKS
WEBSITE: www.bradford-bingley.co.uk



Screen test: Lindsay Mackinlay, chairman of Bradford & Bingley Building Society, yesterday announcing his regret at the outcome of the vote


Rodrigues: "great potential"


Major: out of the limelight

What next for the remaining mutuals?

BY PAULA HAWKINS

THE decision by the Bradford & Bingley to convert to a quoted company will trigger a new wave of carpetbaggers seeking building society windfalls. But pickings are now slim, with most of the big societies now requiring new members to sign away rights to any windfalls for at least five years.

Nationwide: Having survived a conversion vote last year, the Nationwide cannot be made to hold another until after its 2001 AGM. New accounts can be opened, but new members must sign away windfall rights.

Britannia: The serial carpetbagger Michael Hardern has withdrawn from standing for the Britannia board, but the ballot on the board make-up will still go ahead. The result, to be published on April 29, will be seen as an indicator of whether members want it to remain a mutual. All new members sign away windfall rights.

Yorkshire: At the Yorkshire's AGM two weeks ago, 90 per cent of voting members supported mutuality. New members must sign away windfall rights.

Portman: The society, seen as the carpetbagger's choice, has ended restrictions on opening accounts, but members have decided that any conversion plan will require a majority of 75 per cent of savers and more than half of borrowers.

Coventry: New accounts can be opened, but new members must sign away windfall rights.

Skipton: The minimum opening balance is £2,000 and may increase. The Skipton is probably too small for conversion, but is seen as a viable takeover target.

Leeds & Holbeck: New accounts accepted, but members must sign away windfall rights. The minimum investment starts at £1,000.

Derbyshire: Limits new accounts to local investors.

West Bromwich: Accounts can be opened with £1,000. There are no restrictions.

Business Today



Better than expected
Anatole Kaletsky on economic surprises
Page 31

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6503.6	(+75.6)
Yield	2.12%	
FTSE All Share	3003.72	(+29.09)
Nikkei	16918.51	(-4.74)
New York:		
Dow Jones	10695.68	(+6.01)*
S&P Composite	1359.09	(+2.24)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4[illegible]%*	(4[illegible]%)
Long bond	94[illegible]*	(95[illegible])
Yield	5.64%*	(5.59%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5[illegible]%	(5[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	116.46	(116.89)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6117*	(1.6157)
London:		
$	1.6129	(1.6169)
€	1.5212	(1.5189)
SFr	2.4383	(2.4332)
Yen	191.86	(193.05)
£ Index	104.2	(104.2)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0590*	(1.0620)
SFr	1.5130*	(1.5088)
Yen	119.10*	(119.30)
$ index	108.50	(108.3)

Tokyo close Yen 118.85

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul)	$15.45	($15.70)

GOLD

London close	$281.15	($283.45)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates ....Page 28

G7 in turmoil over plans for financial crises

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY IN WASHINGTON

SERIOUS differences yesterday emerged between leading industrial countries over plans to prevent crises in the world monetary system and to help developing countries to cope with the recent financial shocks.

Finance ministers and central bankers from the G7 countries yesterday expressed general satisfaction about the prospects for the world economy, but behind the scenes there were serious disagreements between America, the euro countries and Britain over detailed proposals to cope with emerging market financial crises.

Joseph Stiglitz, the World Bank's chief economist, gave warning that the true costs of the recent financial turmoil have not yet emerged.

Estimates of the number of people living in extreme poverty in Indonesia have more than doubled over the past two years, while estimates of the number of people living in extreme poverty in the states of the former Soviet Union has risen from 14 million in 1989 to 147 million before the latest Russian financial crisis.

James Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank, also criticised the G7 for proclaiming apparently generous schemes for debt relief to poor developing countries, while failing to agree on how these schemes would be financed.

The problem of Europe's representation in the G7 after monetary union was again raised, with US officials maintaining that euroland countries cannot be represented at G7 meetings by their national central bankers and by the President of the European Central Bank.

Economic View, page 31

Brown hedges bets with MPC appointee

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE market-reading skills of international hedge funds are to be brought to bear on deciding Britain's interest rates.

Gordon Brown, currently reordering world finance in Washington, paused yesterday to appoint Sushil Wadhwani, London partner in a $3 billion US hedge fund, as one of five independent members of the Bank of England's nine strong rate-setting Monetary Policy Committee.

The opportunity comes because the committee is losing its first member. Sir Alan Budd, 61, former chief economic adviser at the Treasury, is to be Provost of The Queen's College, Oxford.

Dr Wadhwani, 39, swapped academic life at the London School of Economics, where he published more than a dozen papers on labour economics, first to be director of equity strategy at Goldman Sachs and for the past four years as research director and partner in the Tudor Group.

Tudor is a US-based hedge fund operator founded by Paul Tudor Jones, a colourful environmentalist and friend of President Clinton, which manages about $3 billion of wealthy clients' money. Dr Wadhwani will cease to be a Tudor employee. At Goldman Sachs, Dr Wadhwani worked in the team led by Gavyn Davies, one of the architects of new Labour economics. But this probably has little to do with his selection.


Wadhwani: successful

Mr Davies said Dr Wadhwani spent 15 years developing big, quantitative valuation models to predict the course of bond, equity and currency prices. They helped him to win a 1995 investment strategy award from *Institutional Investor*. The magazine noted his successful prediction of falling bond prices in 1994.

He joins a coterie of present and past LSE academics on the MPC, including Mervyn King, Deputy Governor. He may be able to enlighten them on the niceties of earnings and on why sterling still keeps rising when they cut rates.

Commentary, page 29

CRS to cut 3,000 jobs as buying power is merged

BY FRASER NELSON

MORE than 3,000 jobs are to go as part of a radical shake-up in the Co-operative Retail Society, which is to merge its buying power with the Co-operative Wholesale Society in a £4.5 billion deal.

Andy Meehan, CRS chief executive, has sold its ten Homeworld furniture store buildings and 46 Living department stores for £149 million in cash. Every outlet is to be closed.

Kingfisher, the Woolworths to Comet retailer, is buying the Homeworld buildings for £80.4 million. Miller Developments, a Scottish construction company, is paying £69 million for the "Living" department stores.

The deal will reduce the CRS to a chain of 469 grocery stores. Mr Meehan has pooled its £1.2 billion of buying power into the CRTG, a buying alliance organised by the CWS, which orders £3.3 billion of goods each year. The move will effectively create the fifth-largest force in British food retailing — with more buying power than William Morrison, Iceland or the recently merged Somerfield and Kwik Save.

Mr Meehan, who joined the CRS five months ago with a brief to shake it up, has decided to ditch the "Co-operative" brand under which the CRS has been selling its own-label food for the past two years. It will instead use the traditional "Co-op" brand, produced by the CWS, which now runs 640 of its own stores.

Industry observers believe the decision to merge the food-buying and marketing departments could be the first step towards a full merger between the CRS and CWS.

Co-op conundrum, page 31

Online move lifts shares in WH Smith

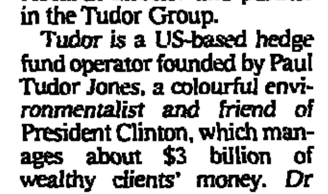
SHARES in WH Smith, which were 455p last summer, rose a further 38p to 778½p yesterday as the high street retailer launched WHSmith Online, its new Internet division (Chris Ayres writes).

However, Richard Handover, chief executive, said that there were no plans to float it.

Many see the division as a response to Freeserve — the free Internet access business that Dixons launched last year and which has attracted 1.5 million account holders. Dixons is considering a £2.5 billion flotation of Freeserve.

WHSmith Online will offer free Internet access, and shopping facilities.

Stock market, page 30



Nomura unrest clouded Park's departure

A WHISPERING campaign and a clampdown on bonuses at Nomura International were part of the volatile mix that led to last week's abrupt departure of Mungo Park, the Japanese bank's head of technology and healthcare.

Mr Park's enemies at Nomura, including Kevin Sara, head of technology, alleged that the bank was losing business because of Mr Park's controversial past. Mr Park was accused by the Serious Fraud Office of conspiring fraudulently to induce investments though he was formally acquitted of the charges in 1993. Pieter Mulier, a top salesman who left Nomura a year ago after a fierce disagreement with Mr Park, compiled a dossier on these and other allegations that was shown to Kozo Yamazoe, head of corporate finance, and the firm's compliance department. Mr Yamazoe was initially satisfied that Mr Park had fully disclosed his past problems when joining Nomura.

However, Mr Sara continued to press the issue, concerned that someone with Mr Park's reputation was running a team that embraced sales, trading, corporate finance and a £50 million proprietary investment book — raising complex compliance problems.

Tensions at Nomura were heightened by a clampdown on bonuses this year. Colleagues say Mr Sara was unhappy with his bonus, believed to be about £150,000 after tax.

The bonus clampdown, stemming from the Japanese parent company's £2 billion losses last year, is said to have prompted the recent departure of Nick Knight, the well-known strategist who is thought to have made about £15 million profit for the firm last year. Nomura International, the London arm, also suffered a big loss, much of it on Russian bonds. Several of last year's technology issues have performed badly, notably Union Technology, an Italian computer company floated in France.

A Nomura spokeswoman said yesterday that Mr Park had been given a clean bill of health by the Securities and Futures Authority.

In a recent reorganisation at Nomura, Mr Park lost responsibility for the "BBFB" — the biotech bottom-fishing book, the portfolio of large holdings in biotech companies that he initiated. Mr Park's departure has called into question Nomura's commitment to the biotechnology sector and to its stakes, of up to 25 per cent, in many loss-making biotech firms.

The BBFB is currently showing a profit of about £20 million on investments that cost some £35 million. One Nomura insider insisted that the bank remained committed to the BBFB, and would respond aggressively to any attempt to drive share prices lower.

PAUL DURMAN

FSA seizes assets of Manchester stockbroker

By Gavin Lumsden

THE assets of a Manchester stockbroker who operated illegally and preyed on the city's Asian community have been seized by the Financial Services Authority.

On Friday the FSA won a High Court injunction enabling it to seize the assets of Shankernath Lukka, an unauthorised trader from Didsbury, Manchester, and make an immediate payment of £1.5 million to his investors.

This is the first time the City watchdog has been granted the power to seize the assets of an individual directly and demonstrates the gravity of the situation.

Granting the injunction Mr Justice Neuberger said it appeared that Mr Lukka, a South African-born Asian who also claimed to hold a Greek passport, had been "flagrantly and persistently dishonest".

Although apparently a Hindu by religion Mr Lukka is believed to have contacted most of his victims through Muslim temples in the Manchester area. Worshippers were encouraged to give Mr Lukka up to £200,000 on the back of high guaranteed returns which he claimed could be obtained on the stock market and foreign exchange. Upon receipt of their money Mr Lukka gave investors post-dated cheques that were supposed to represent their total returns. Only a few of these cheques have been successfully cashed.

Mr Lukka is believed to have put money from at least 30 groups of investors through a bank account set up in his name. The FSA's move means that investors should receive at least part of their money back. This is unusual as there is no established safety net for people who have given money to unauthorised investment companies. However, full compensation is unlikely as Mr Lukka's assets — believed to mostly comprise of his house and car — are not expected to be worth more than £250,000. Mr Lukka was not present in court and his whereabouts are not known.

The FSA's investigation in to Mr Lukka began last December after it completed an earlier case against an illegal deposit taker, Sahib Saini of Rochdale, Lancashire. Mr Saini had invested some of the money he had attracted from savers with Mr Lukka.

The latest scandal highlights the lack of apparent access that ethnic minorities have with established providers of financial services and will add fuel to the debate on financial exclusion.

Peps get farewell boost

PEP investors gave Britain's favourite tax shelter a rousing send-off, pumping £2.5 billion into personal equity plans in March alone, £1 billion more than the same month last year (Gavin Lumsden writes).

According to the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif), sales continued to surge into the first week of April — the last week Peps were available — adding £624 million to the influx. This took the total for the first quarter of 1999 to £4.1 billion, up from £2.9 billion in 1998's first quarter.

However, the total of Peps open rose only 6 per cent, to 12.2 million, last month, Autif said, indicating that activity was mainly by existing holders.

Most investors rejected investing abroad, and UK funds took £1.78 billion of March's figure, Autif said.

Don Cruickshank, who said that the Scottish dimension of his new job had interested him

Cruickshank to replace Macdonald at SMG

By Raymond Snoddy, media editor

SCOTTISH MEDIA GROUP, the television and newspapers combine, has appointed the Government's chief millennium bug buster as its new chairman.

Don Cruickshank, the former director of Oftel, the telecommunications industry regulator, who currently heads the Government's Action 2000 campaign, will take over as SMG chairman in June.

Mr Cruickshank, who is also carrying out a review of Britain's retail banks for the Government, replaces fellow Scot Lord Macdonald of Tradeston, the Scottish Industry Minister. Calum MacLeod, the acting chairman, resumes his role as deputy chairman of SMG.

SMG, is the fourth-largest independent television company in Britain, holding the ITV franchises north of the border. Its interests also include *The Herald* newspaper in Glasgow. Mr Cruickshank, 56, said the "Scottish dimension" of his new job had interested him.

SMG, meanwhile, has launched a review of its interactive publishing activities with the likelihood that it will expand its Delphic Interactive subsidiary.

Delphic designs and maintains websites and its customers include Celtic Football Club. One of the options under consideration by SMG will be the launching of an ISP, or Internet service provider, business with partners.

Shares in SMG ticked up 1½p to 868p yesterday.

British business ignores the euro

By Carl Mortished
International Business Editor

BRITISH businesses are largely ignoring the euro. A survey of transactions by firms outside of the banking sector in the first month of the new currency showed no evidence that sterling or the mighty dollar were being supplanted.

Only 1 per cent of all transactions conducted by the 403 firms surveyed by KPMG Consulting was conducted in euro during the 19 business days in January.

More encouraging for supporters of the new currency was evidence that the euro is making an impact in transactions between Britain and euroland member-states. The euro is capturing 16 per cent of the deals that would have been done in eurozone legacy currencies (the French franc, German mark and Italian lira).

However, in transactions between Britain and the rest of the world, the euro is only just appearing on radar screens, with a 1 per cent share of the deals, compared with 51 per cent of transactions conducted in sterling and 37 per cent in US dollars.

KPMG Consulting said it intends to publish its survey quarterly, incorporating its "eurocreep index" that measures the growth of use in the currency. The score at the end of January was 16 per cent for displacement of legacy currencies, 1 per cent for total eurocreep (euro share of all transactions) and nil for domestic eurocreep (UK to UK transactions).

Leo Martin, senior economist at KPMG, commented: "Assuming nothing goes horribly wrong, we would expect the euro to move from 1 per cent overall to 6 per cent as it displaces legacy currencies. The interesting question is whether it begins to make inroads into the dollar and sterling."

Britain in Europe, the lobby group, said that UK plcs had been quick to seize the opportunity to use the currency, pointing out that one sixth of UK-euroland transactions were in euros. It predicted: "Before too long, we may see the euro displacing some of the other currencies used in the UK."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Japanese motor production slips

JAPAN'S motor vehicle output for the year to March dipped below ten million units for the first time in 20 years. Annual output volume fell 7.5 per cent, compared with the previous year, to 9.97 million units, its lowest since the year to March 1979 and the first annual fall for three years, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association said yesterday. A spokeswoman for the association said: "The prolonged recession in Japan and the economic slump in Asia contributed to the drop."

Analysts said that the slide would put pressure on Japanese manufacturers to cut surplus production lines, worth more than three million units. The annual output of cars fell 3.7 per cent to 8.07 million units and that of trucks slumped 21.1 per cent to 1.84 million units.

Terranova open to bid

THE board of Terranova, the food group spun out of Hillsdown Holdings, suggested yesterday that it could be amenable to recommending a bid — if the price was right. Terranova yesterday told shareholders to reject the 125p a share hostile offer being made by Unigate, the dairy firm. Terranova's second defence document, published yesterday, reiterated its objection to the bid on grounds that at 125p — or £228.5 million for the group — it gave shareholders little or no premium for change of control.

Wensum advances

THE WENSUM COMPANY, the clothing manufacturer, reported pre-tax profits up 14 per cent to £1.54 million for the year to January 30. Turnover was £15.72 million, up from £14.56 million. Earnings per share were 14.24p, compared with 11.79p last time and the final dividend of 3.45p (3.425p) takes the total for the year to 5.1p (5p). Andrew Hughes, chairman, said that the current year has started well with "excellent" order books.

Strong growth at SBS

SBS GROUP, the AIM-listed IT staffing business, yesterday reported pre-tax profit up 158 per cent to £1.6 million for the six months to February 28. Turnover rose at a similar rate to £28.3 million on the back of two acquisitions during the period. Organic growth in turnover was 43 per cent. Earnings per share were 9.64p (4.82p) and the interim dividend is 1.5p per share (1p). John Davies, chairman, said: "We are still experiencing healthy demand for our services."

Halladale sells sites

HALLADALE GROUP, a property company based in Scotland, has sold a portfolio of nine retail investment properties to an unnamed overseas purchaser for £5.1 million. The properties, in town centres in England and Wales, are let to a variety of retail chains including Our Price and John Menzies. Current rental income is about £380,000 per year, giving a net yield of 7.06 per cent.

Chewits maker is sold

THE company that makes Chewits fruit chews is being sold for €390 million (£250 million). Chewits is currently owned by Leaf, which is controlled by Huhtamaki, the Finnish group. Leaf is being bought by CSM, the Dutch confectioner. The purchase price is 13 times Leaf's operating profits, but is less than its annual sales of €420 million. Leaf has its strongest market positions in Scandinavia and in medicated lozenges.

KCA wins Shell deal

KCA DRILLING, a subsidiary of Abbot, the oil services group, has been awarded a drilling contract worth £200 million for Shell's oilfields in the North Sea. Shell UK Exploration & Production said the five-year contract would cover all nine of its fixed-production platforms. Alasdair Locke, Abbot chairman, said the effect on revenues would be determined by the anticipated pick-up in activity levels in the industry.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.58	2.41
Austria Sch	21.92	20.26
Belgium Fr	64.54	59.58
Canada $	2.512	2.324
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9225	0.8510
Denmark Kr	11.89	11.00
Egypt	5.71	5.10
Finland Mkk	9.60	8.85
France Fr	10.44	9.66
Germany Dm	3.138	2.896
Greece Dr	522	483
Hong Kong $	13.34	12.14
Iceland	130	110
Indonesia	17559	12559
Ireland Pt	1.2521	1.1631
Israel Shk	6.93	6.27
Italy Lira	3120	2783
Japan Yen	207.01	189.48
Malta	0.680	0.621
Netherlds Gld	3.542	3.247
New Zealand $	3.09	2.85
Norway Kr	13.18	12.24
Portugal Esc	317.39	295.36
S Africa Rd	10.42	9.46
Spain Pta	264.51	245.72
Sweden Kr	14.33	13.23
Switzerland Fr	2.590	2.372
Turkey Lira	643924	601124
USA $	1.721	1.578

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

ASW plans to shed 400

NEARLY 400 steelworkers' jobs are to go as the loss-making ASW group begins a shake-out of a rival steelmaker that it bought in January (Christine Buckley writes).

ASW will close a bar mill at its Cardiff premises, with the loss of 220 jobs, and shut a furnace and rod mill at its site at Sheerness, Kent, with the loss of 160 jobs. The Sheerness jobs will go at the end of July, and the cutback at Cardiff is to be at the end of September. Both sites are part of Co-Steel Sheerness, the steelmaker bought for £40 million by ASW.

Graham Mackenzie, ASW chief executive, said: "The rationalisation programme, whilst a radical move, is a positive step in the restructuring of ASW and is one aspect of the significant opportunities that are available in returning the company to profitability." The cuts will cost ASW £15 million to implement. On top of that, the company is investing £4.7 million in the Cardiff business and £5 million at Sheerness.

ASW, which employs more than 1,750 people, last month said that its losses had deepened to £22 million last year, from £5.8 million. It blamed the poor steel market throughout the UK and northern Europe.

PPL considers US option

PPL THERAPEUTICS, the drug development company best known for cloning Dolly the sheep, may be forced to locate a £45 million production plant in the US because of the difficulty of obtaining finance in the UK (Paul Durman writes).

PPL said that it would prefer to have a new plant near its existing pilot facility at its Roslin headquarters, near Edinburgh. However, Ron James, chief executive of PPL, fears that British banks would be reluctant to provide loan or lease finance on attractive terms.

He said: "It's difficult if you are a loss-making biotech company. In the US, they can point to biotech companies that are making profits. There are so many biotech companies in the US that, even if we were to fail, another company could come along and occupy the plant."

PPL, which reported losses rising from £10.2 million to £14.2 million last year, needs a plant to process milk from genetically modified sheep to extract an enzyme that it hopes to use to treat cystic fibrosis. The company ended 1998 with cash and investments of about £25 million.

Defence projects to protect jobs

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

THOUSANDS of jobs in the defence industry were protected yesterday by the Government's decision to go it alone on a frigate building programme and also to proceed with a three-country air defence project.

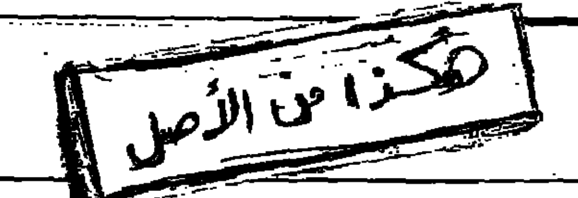
The Ministry of Defence said yesterday that it was withdrawing from the troubled Horizon frigate programme, which it had been working on with France and Italy, in favour of its own initiative.

Defence analysts said that the decision would bring more work to the UK on the multibillion-pound programme to replace Type 42 destroyers and that the work could start sooner.

The MoD is aiming to build 12 new vessels by 2007. Initially it had wanted a launch date of 2004 but talks between the three countries have been long and problematic, eventually foundering on the allocation of work. The building of the frigates is unlikely to generate work for the Govan shipyard on the Clyde, which has been put up for sale by its Norwegian owner, Kvaerner, as the shipyards of VSEL are more suited to warship work.

The UK Government has, however, reached agreement with France and Italy to build together the Principle Anti-Air Missile System (PAAMS) defence system for the new generation of frigates.

Matra British Aerospace Dynamics, the Anglo/French joint venture, will be the main contractor on the UK variant of PAAMS, bringing work worth about £700 million to the UK. A spokesman for BAe said: "We look forward to working closely with the Ministry of Defence to produce the world's most advanced missile defence system."



Cook's tour of the great and good



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Not many new companies can enlist the help of a former President of the United States to do their public relations work for them but Global Crossing is one that can.

The business, which has just agreed to pay £550 million for Cable & Wireless's Global Marine Division, is a company with connections. And in telecommunications, where commerce and politics tend to be intertwined, connections can be all important.

Global Crossing launched on the New York stock market last summer with its shares valued at $19. An initial lack of enthusiasm saw them drift down as low as $8, but yesterday they were up to almost $57.

This will be cheering news for ex-President George Bush. Last year he did the company the favour of flying to Tokyo to explain what an excellent outfit it was. His reward came in the form of $80,000 worth of shares. They are now worth more than $15 million. Not a bad fee for a man hardly renowned for his oratory.

Mr Bush may now be volunteering to knock on a few more international doors for Global Crossing. But the company could probably call on the services of a raft of high-profile people to sing its praises.

The secret is in the identity of its co-chairman, Lod Cook. He was formerly the chairman of oil company Arco, recently swallowed into the giant BPAmoco combine, and is a man whose gold-plated address book makes things happen. And not just in the United States, where his Republican allegiances have not precluded invitations to the Clinton White House.

Good works on a grand scale earned him an honorary KBE from Prince Charles. At Arco, he would host an annual dinner in London which top names from politics and industry would not miss. The last one, however, was no longer staged under the auspices of Arco: Global Crossing picked up the bill for the glittering evening. This was clearly a young company with grand ambitions.

They have not taken long to materialise. In February, the company enrolled AT&T's Bob Annunziata as chief executive and snapped up a US telecoms company, Frontier. Today, it is valued at $23.3 billion.

This has made Mr Cook's stake of just over 1 per cent worth having. It has made Gary Winnick the fastest-ever billionaire, in the careful judgment of *Forbes Magazine*. Mr Winnick, a former associate of bond dealer Michael Milken at Drexel Burnham Lambert, is co-chairman, with Mr Cook. His stake in Global Crossing is rather larger, however — 23.42 per cent.

While that is already worth enough to pay for a good few banquets at Claridges, Mr Winnick is looking for more. The deal with Cable & Wireless is a step on the way, but some of those who have enjoyed Lod Cook's hospitality over the years are wishing they had bought his shares a little sooner.

Rodrigues does swift pirouette

Converting the Bradford & Bingley from building society to bank will take at least a year. The conversion of Christopher Rodrigues had to be accomplished rather more speedily. Yesterday morning he was a vehement supporter of mutuality. By yesterday evening he was coming round to the idea that B&B plc might not be such a bad thing. He could envisage being chief executive of such an entity without feeling that his principles were being compromised.

His members' principles were all too clear, however. They put more value on cash in the hand than the more amorphous benefits of mutuality. When interest rates are down to current levels, the slightly more generous attitudes of the mutuals amount to little in pounds and pence: certainly not enough to leave savers or borrowers convinced that mutuality is worth preserving. It was B&B members who pushed the society into the demutualisation vote and they were more in touch with the prevailing mood than was Mr Rodrigues.

But he is not the child of a brace of ballet dancers for nothing. Executing a swift pirouette, he is now devising plans for a demutualised B&B as a "customer-led plc".

As a big idea, this is not revolutionary. Financial services businesses have spouted more than the fountains at Versailles about the need to be customer-focused. In theory, they all believe that this must be the way to earn long-term profits.

Yet when it comes to putting this theory into practice, far too often they opt for short-term profits over long-term customer loyalty. Northern Rock provided the most glaring example when, having forsaken its mutual status, it proceeded to juggle its customers' funds into accounts that distinctly disadvantaged them. The subsequent slow climb down was an unedifying sight.

If Mr Rodrigues can ensure that B&B plc hangs on to some of the warm glow of mutuality in its relations with its customers, he may have a recipe for growing the business. Shareholders, however, do impose new disciplines, and while they, too, might claim to understand the virtues of being customer-led, they have a nasty tendency to be profit driven.

The carpetbagging mentality is not confined to members of building societies or motoring organisations: institutional investors have the same tendencies.

Once B&B is floated and they have their shares, a swift takeover is probably what they would most like to see.

It really can be all at the Co-op now

When Andrew Regan made his ill-fated attempt to take over the CWS, his reasoning was sound: this was a business that deserved to be broken up. The problem was in the execution. Now there are suggestions that a cash-packed United States venture capital organisation is ready to try to succeed where he failed, with a £2 billion bid.

But the signs are that the Co-op may at last be deciding on the sort of remedial action that might make it deserving of a future. A merger between the CWS and the CRS is the sensible way forward for what used so proudly to be known as "the movement" (and, yes, there are smaller co-operative societies that still thrive but, for the purposes of this argument, it is the CRS and the CWS that now constitute TGMOO — this great movement of ours.)

They have not yet agreed to a fully fledged get-together. Given the fiercely fought objections to that in the past, it would be too abrupt a change. But after effectively putting the buying departments into one, it cannot be too long before the selling sides of the organisations realise the good sense of a full-blooded merger.

Then the organisation would be well placed to fight for its place in the grocery business, competing alongside Somerfield Kwiksave and the like. It may take a little while yet but the arcane structure of the Co-op probably means that even the most imaginative of US bidders will have to sit back and watch.

No token choice

UNDER the Government's new sleaze-beating policy, the Bank of England has to advertise for directors. Yet the Chancellor's appointments to the MPC remain shrouded in the mists of patronage. That invites a cynical view that, having gathered a woman member and a euroland nationalist, right-on Gordon Brown has added an ethnic Asian. Sushil Wadhwani's repute suggests, on the contrary that we are lucky a youngish family man has made so much money in hedge funds that he can afford to take the job.

GEC launches $4.5bn bid for Internet business

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

GEC has launched a takeover of Fore Systems, offering to pay $4.5 billion (£2.8 billion) for the US company that specialises in the manufacture of Internet switching equipment.

Shares of the UK electronics group gained 29½p to 608½p, as the market welcomed evidence that GEC was putting flesh on the bones of its strategy to expand in telecoms.

GEC's offer, priced at 76 times the earnings of Fore Systems, also provided support yesterday for the recent spurt in telecoms and Internet stocks.

Based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Fore Systems makes networking equipment for large companies, as well as telecom and Internet service providers. Its biggest product, the AX4000 switch, enables data to be transferred down telephone wires, and some 70 per cent of all Internet traffic is reckoned to pass through Fore Systems's products. The company's stock price has soared from $13 per share over the past month because of takeover speculation.

GEC is bidding $35 per share for the company, a premium of 43 per cent to Friday's closing price. Net of cash balances, the cost to GEC will be $4.2 billion and Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, chief executive, admitted that it was not cheap. "It is the price of the technology and an annual growth rate of 30 to 35 per cent," he explained.

"We will now be in a position to capture the benefits of the impact of the growth of Internet and other data traffic on the demand for communications equipment and systems."

The bid follows last month's acquisition of Reltec, a network products company, for $2.1 billion. GEC is keen to ally its existing telecoms equipment business, largely based on voice communication, with data communication products in an attempt to compete in the same markets as Lucent, its main competitor.

Lord Simpson added: "Fore Systems give us a similar footprint in terms of technology but we have a long way to catch up in sales. Our job now is to drive the organic growth."

Fore Systems was set up just nine years ago. In the year to last March it had revenues of $632 million and operating income before interest and tax of $55.4 million.

Products include asynchronous transfer mode, Internet protocol, gigabit ethernet and firewall switches but the company is also known for having helped to create the special effects for the film *Babe*.

Fore Systems's clients include NASA, the US Government, the US Department of Defense, service providers such as AT&T, Bell Atlantic, Deutsche Telekom and large corporates, including Boeing, Ford, Microsoft, Shell and Unisys.

Tempus, page 30

C&W's disposal fetches £550m

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

CABLE & WIRELESS, the international telecommunications group, yesterday continued its programme of disposals with the £550 million sale of its Global Marine business to Global Crossing (See Commentary, this page).

Global Marine installs and maintains submarine telecom cable systems. Itssale is the first disposal since Graham Wallace took over as C&W chief executive and is a further sign that the company is concentrating on the operation of communication networks including the Internet.

The deal also means that since C&W first announced a disposal programme in November 1997, about £1.2 billion has been raised. That total does not include the sale of a 20 per cent stake in Bouygues Telecom, expected to fetch more than £500 million.

The market reacted positively to the sale and C&W closed 67p up at 909p.

Under the deal Global Crossing, which is building an advanced fibre-optic telecommunications network spanning four continents, will pay C&W £450 million in cash and take on £100 million in third-party debt.

As part of the sale agreement, C&W will have a continuing relationship with Global Crossing for the installation and maintenance of its cables.



Splashing out: Nick Irens, left, and Harm Tegelaars, of Cannons, which is poised to buy 20 clubs in an all-share deal

First Leisure poised for break-up

By Dominic Walsh

MICHAEL GRADE, the former Channel 4 boss, appears to have thrown in the towel in his bid to repeat his success in the leisure arena. First Leisure, where he has been chief executive since 1997, yesterday admitted it was in talks to demerge its health and fitness business and sell it to Cannons Group in what appears to be the first stage of a break-up of the group.

First Leisure issued a statement confirming that it was a discussing an all-share merger between Cannons and its own health and fitness business. It said: "Such a merger would be effected through a separation of First Leisure's health and fitness business, and by Cannons issuing shares directly to First Leisure's shareholders."

Cannons, which is headed by Nick Irens, chairman, and Harm Tegelaars, chief executive, is effectively acquiring a business which operates 20 clubs, mainly under the Riverside and Esporta brands.

Neither company would elaborate, emphasising that the talks had "not yet reached a conclusion", although analysts believe it could double Cannons in size to between £500 million and £600 million.

First Leisure, which also operates bars, nightclubs and bowling centres, fuelled speculation of an eventual break-up by saying it continued to explore "other strategic initiatives for the rest of the group".

Tempus, page 30

Price rises ahoy, says P&O Stena Line

P&O Stena Line, the ferry operator, yesterday forecast further strong price rises on the back of reduced competition in the cross-Channel transport.

The company said that despite sharp rises in the past year, prices for passenger and freight transport were significantly lower than five years ago. This was when Eurotunnel entered the market, leading to substantial excess capacity and a heavy price slump.

However, the creation in March last year of P&O Stena, 60 per cent owned by P&O and 40 per cent by Stena, the Swedish ferry group, cut competition on its two routes. Analysts believe that prices have risen by at least 15 per cent for freight and 20 per cent for passengers in the past year.

The joint venture said yesterday that it had made a headline profit of £3.5 million in the three months to March. However, it had also incurred a £10.4 million charge on closing its lossmaking Newhaven/Dieppe route on January 31.

Rate cuts aid Boot

Henry Boot, the construction group, said reservations for its property developments have been "significantly buoyed" by interest rate cuts and lower inflation, but orders for houses in its construction division are down as a result of competition and a drop in public sector contracts because of more governmental emphasis on Private Finance Initiative schemes.

Boot's 1998 pre-tax profits rose 5 per cent, to £10.6 million, on turnover up 6 per cent, to £172.1 million. Earnings per share rose 7 per cent to 29.1p. A 6.6p final dividend makes 9.1p, up 7 per cent.

BATM soars

BATM, the Israeli telecoms equipment maker, said "a multinational corporation" had signed a "non-binding letter of intent" to buy up to 9.9 per cent of it. Speculation that BATM may be bought by Cisco Systems, 3M or IBM lifted its shares 12 per cent to 585p, against 145½p last year. Pretax profits more than doubled last year, to £2.25 million, on sales of £11.2 million, up 71 per cent. There is a 31.2p final dividend. Tempus, page 30

Merging holiday firms' chiefs to share millions

By Dominic Walsh

DIRECTORS of First Choice Holidays and Kuoni of Switzerland are to share several million pounds after the two companies announced a slimmer and completely reshaped board ahead of their planned merger.

The board of the enlarged Kuoni Holdings was to have been led by Ian Clubb, of First Choice, as executive chairman and Riccardo Gullotti, of the Swiss group, as chief executive. However, the two men have now agreed to step down to non-executive status and Peter Long, First Choice's managing director, will become chief executive.

Mr Gullotti, whose contract with Kuoni has already been terminated, will receive a total of £4.56 million in compensation, including £247,000 in pension contributions. Mr Clubb, meanwhile, will pocket compensation worth £543,000, equivalent to one year's salary, bonus and pension contributions. He will also be paid £150,000 a year for two years for his services as a non-executive director.



Gullotti: gets £4.56 million

When the merger was announced last month the board was to have had nine executives and five non-executives. The reshaped board unveiled in the formal merger document posted to shareholders yesterday has just six executives and four non-executives.

Peter Diethelm, head of Kuoni UK, is to continue in his British role, but will not now join the board. He has already received £4 million to buy him out of a profit share scheme. Three other Kuoni executives will each receive £730,000 for agreeing to waive their rights to compensation under a change of control clause.

Mr Clubb said a 14-strong board would have been too unwieldy. He said that he and Mr Gullotti had planned to step down after two years, with Mr Long due to succeed Mr Gullotti: "We decided it would be better to do it now."

The merger document puts the total cost of the merger at £25 million.

Takeover failure hits Jarvis

SHARES of Jarvis Hotels fell by 20p to 139p yesterday after the group announced that takeover talks with an unnamed party — widely believed to have been NH Hoteles of Spain — have been terminated (Dominic Walsh writes).

Analysts believe that the three-star operator is still seeking a buyer. There were also suggestions that if its share price remains depressed, the management might seek to take the company private. Since flotation in 1996 the shares have rarely reached anywhere near its 175p launch price.

Sources close to Jarvis emphasised that the discussions with NH had been highly tentative, and had never progressed as far as due diligence.

JCDecaux adds to ads empire

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

JCDECAUX, the privately owned French group, yesterday claimed to have become the world's largest owner of "out of home" advertising after the £652 million acquisition of Havas Communications-Outdoor Advertising.

Jean-François Decaux, chief executive of the company founded by his father in 1964, said yesterday the deal meant that JCDecaux now has more than 350,000 advertising structures in 31 countries.

Until now the group has been founded almost entirely on providing bus shelters for local authorities in return for the advertising space. The acquisition of the Havas outdoor advertising group which includes Mills & Allen in the UK, will add conventional outdoor billboards as well as advertising on buses and in airports.

The acquisition, hotly contested by Clear Channel and OSI of the US, will give JCDecaux annual revenues of about £800 million.

M Decaux said the company also hoped to float in London and New York through an initial public offering in the next couple of years. The company may also expand into mainstream media. "We will be looking at radio and, or, television," M Decaux said.

The media world is taking outdoor advertising more seriously as the fragmentation of television audiences and the rise of the Internet makes it more difficult to reach homes.

Separately, reports that Carlton is about to buy Maiden the UK outdoor advertising operator were denied by both companies. Maiden's shares finished the day 26½p stronger at 404p.





Telecom deals boost confidence in FTSE

IT IS not often that London is able to ignore the strong influences across the pond on Wall Street. But that is exactly what happened yesterday as investors got the week off to a flying start in the City fuelled by a welter of corporate deals in the telecoms sector.

The FTSE 100 index finished 75.6 up at 6,503.6, having briefly touched a high for the day of 6,521.9.

Gains among second-liners were less spectacular with the FTSE 250 index rising just 4.1 at 5,788.6, as total turnover reached 972 million shares.

By contrast, the Dow Jones industrial average had reversed an opening gain of almost 40 points by the time business in the Square Mile drew to a close.

WH Smith, where Richard Handover is chief executive, was a strong market, adding 38p to 778½p ahead of results on Thursday as the group announced details of the launch today of its Internet service. BT Alex Brown, the broker, forecasts a drop in interim pre-tax profits from £128 million to £89 million.

Marks & Spencer came back 6p to 448¼p with dealers expressing scepticism about recent reports that Warren Buffett, the financier, had built up a 3 per cent stake.

Recent excitement in shares of **Tesco** show signs of boiling over with the price finishing 5p lower at 190¾p. Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the US securities house, has cut its recommendation on the shares from "strong buy" to "market perform". But it has raised its target price from 195p to 215p.

British American Tobacco shaded 5p to 487½p despite Merrill Lynch, the broker, upgrading its recommendation for the shares from "accumulate" to "buy". It has made its move to reflect the completion of the merger with Rothmans, due some time next month, and an improving trading environment.

The breakdown in bid talks left **Jarvis Hotels** nursing a fall of 20p at 139p, after briefly touching 121p. One marketmaker is known to have paid 135p for 100,000 shares, sparking suggestions that another bidder may be waiting in the wings. The talks carried on for more than a month with NH Hoteles of Spain mentioned as the most likely suitor. Fresh support was shown for other hotel operators with **Ladbroke** up 7¼p at 318¼p, **Hanover International** 4½p at 119½p, **Stakis** 7p at 175p and **Jurys Hotel** 2½p at 575p.



Richard Handover, with Estelle Morris, Schools Minister, saw WH Smith shares rise, ahead of the online launch

Talk of a possible bid lifted **Maiden Group** 26½p to 404p. Word is **Carlton Communications**, up 3p at 630p, is poised to make an offer valuing the outdoor advertising business at £170 million. Shares in Maiden are tightly held with Ron Zeghibe, chief executive, holding almost 20 per cent of the company.

There was further speculative support for the insurance brokers. **Cox Insurance** rose 10½p to 200½p, **Lambert Fenchurch** 3p to 89½p and **Bradstock** 1p to 39½p. **Jardine Lloyd Thompson**, down 5p at 226½p, is said to be on the lookout for suitable acquisitions. Elsewhere in the insurance sector, the speculators are keeping a close eye on **Independent Insurance**, 2p easier at 235p. The price recently touched 307½p on the back of results but has begun to drift back again on the absence of any fresh developments. Brokers will no doubt be paying close attention to the comments of Michael Bright, chief executive, at Thursday's annual meeting.

Speculative buying was good for a rise of 20p to 567½p in **Workspace**. Rival Birkby recently bought a 20 per cent stake and could be poised to make a full bid for the property specialist.

It was the first day of dealings on Ofex for **NetBet (UK)**, the Alderney-quoted online betting service after a placing at 70p by Daniel Stewart, the issuing house. The price ended at 172½p, a premium of 102½p.

Arriva remained in reverse, falling 28½p to 386½p after Friday's surprise profits warning. The bus and train operator admitted that passenger numbers were down 2 per cent year-on-year.

Desire Petroleum enjoyed one of the best moves of the day, climbing 10½p, or 26.5 per cent, at 50p. The price has slumped from a peak of 445p last year.

Stylo stood out with a rise of 3p to 42p as Michael Ziff, chief executive, picked up 25,000 shares at 39p, taking his total holding to 4.452 million shares or 7.47 per cent.

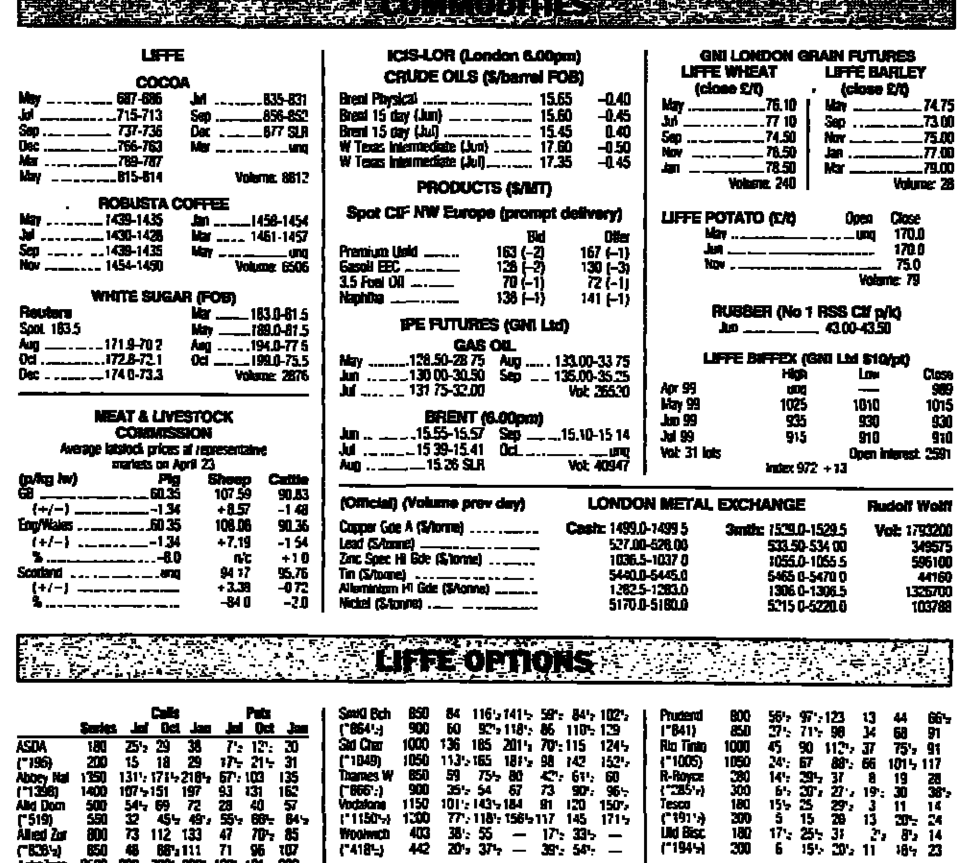
Abbot Group celebrated clinching a £200 million, five-year drilling contract with Shell by adding 14p to 153p.

United Overseas firmed 2p to 22p after Terry Balkham, finance director, bought 470,000 shares at 21p. He now holds 480,000 shares, or less than 1 per cent.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Traders were keeping a wary eye on sterling ahead of this week's G7 summit with investors taking a low-key approach. As a result prices were left to drift lower in thin trading although selling pressure proved light.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt closed 41p down at £116.48, while among conventional issues Treasury 9 per cent 2008 finished 44p off at £132.68.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares were steady in morning trade with investors continuing the return to technology issues. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 6.01 at 10,695.68.



THERE was no shortage of buyers for the telecoms sector amid evidence of further consolidation in the industry. Telewest rose 14½p to 297¼p, while bid hopes bolstered Orange 3p to 844p.

British Telecom, up 53p at £10.47, is poised to spend £1.2 billion along with AT&T acquiring a 30 per cent stake in Japan Telecom, that country's third-largest operator. This comes hard on the heels of last week's proposed merger between Deutsche Telekom and Telecom Italia.

Meanwhile, Cable & Wireless, up 67p at 909p, is selling its global-marine division, which lays fibreoptic cable under the sea, to Global Crossing of the US for £550 million.

Brokers say GEC's acquisition of Fore Systems, the Pittsburgh-based Internet switching-systems specialist, for $35 a share also takes it another step towards being listed as a telecoms supplier. That would lead to an automatic revaluation of the shares, up 29½p at 608½p.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 10695.68 (+6.01)
S&P Composite .... 1359.09 (+2.24)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 16918.51 (-4.74)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 13127.02 (+221.72)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index .... 565.78 (+4.55)

Sydney:
AO .... 3129.7 (+8.0)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 5256.22 (+60.80)

Singapore:
Straits .... 1869.62 (+4.34)

Brussels:
BEL20 .... 3244.67 (+11.32)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 4284.40 (+21.97)

Zurich:
SMI Index .... 7254.7 (+108.9)

London:

FT 30	4063.4 (+38.0)
FTSE 100	6503.6 (+75.6)
FTSE 250	5788.6 (+4.1)
FTSE 350	3101.1 (+30.8)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3014.67 (+30.65)
FTSE All-Share	3003.72 (+29.09)
FTSE Non Financials	3009.65 (+27.93)
FTSE Fixed Interest	154.71 (-0.22)
FTSE Govt Secs	110.79 (-0.26)
Bargains	78181
SEAQ Volume	971.4m
US$	1.6128 (-0.0041)
Euro	0.6573 (-0.0007)
£:SDR	1.1937
Exchange Index	104.2 (Same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
RPI	164.1 Mar (2.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	163.2 Mar (2.7%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Affinity Internet	143½		...
Br Smaller Co's VCT (100)	95		...
Br Smlr Cos VCT Wrts	12½		...
Cairngorm Euro Restruct	112½		...
Cairngorm Restruct Wrts	25		...
Edinburgh Inc & Val	109½	+	½
Edinburgh Val Zero Dv Pf	106½	+	½
Fleming I & G Units 2006	648	−	½
Gartmore High Income	110	+	½
Gartmore Zero Div Pf	109		...
Halifax Non Cum Pf	100½	−	¼
Northern 2 VCT	100		...
Sherry FitzGerald	147		...
Sports Internet	196½	+	2½
Triven VCT	100		...
Voyager 2000	8	+	½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Calluna n/p (125)	2¾		...
Ennex International n/p (IR5p)	2		...
Mice Group n/p (80)	19	+	9½
Versalite n/p (05)	1¼		...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
IOC Intl	102½	+ 11	+ 12.0
Dewhirst	122½	+ 12	+ 10.8
Burtonwd Brw	182½	+ 17	+ 10.2
Abbot Group	153	+ 14	+ 10.0
SBS	195	+ 17½	+ 9.8
Goldshield	380	+ 30½	+ 8.7
Shield Diag	452½	+ 35	+ 8.3
Maiden	404	+ 30½	+ 8.1
Cable Wireless	909	+ 67	+ 7.9
Fitness First	530	+ 39	+ 7.9
Chiroscience	221½	+ 15	+ 7.2
Alexon	222½	+ 15	+ 7.2
Bioglan Pharma	335	+ 21½	+ 6.8
App Holo	189½	+ 12	+ 6.7
Hanson	621½	+ 35	+ 5.9
BT	1047	+ 53	+ 5.3
Smith WH	778½	+ 38	+ 5.1
TeleWest	297¼	+ 14½	+ 5.1
GEC	608½	+ 29½	+ 5.0
Comino	262½	+ 12½	+ 5.0

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
s Hotels	139	− 20	− 12.5
Black Arrow	93½	− 12	− 11.3
JJB Sports	348½	− 34	− 8.8
Arriva	386½	− 28½	− 6.8
REXAM	238	− 15	− 5.9
Glenmorangie A	540	− 32½	− 5.6

TEMPUS

Forward with new GEC

WHICH would you rather buy? A share in an Internet service provider or an Internet equipment maker? Judging by the price GEC is paying for Fore Systems of the US, there is almost as much capital growth hope in the latter as there is in the former. GEC is paying a 43 per cent premium to buy Fore — and this comes against a backdrop that saw Fore shares almost double in value over the past month as speculation mounted that it would become subject of a bid.

GEC is certainly paying an exorbitant price — the sales multiple is 6.6 times and the multiple to earnings for the year to March 1999 is 76 times. But this is the going rate. In reality, GEC has little choice but to pay up if it wants to play in the big league in a market that includes companies such as Northern Telecom and Ericsson. It has advertised itself as cash rich and a keen buyer. In addition, vendors in its new areas of operation are few and can name their price. Lucent, GEC's main rival in its new-found guise as a telecoms equipment manufacturer, paid 13 times sales for Ascend, a similar company to Fore Systems. Shares in BATM Advanced Communications, discussed in more detail below, also trade at 80 odd times earnings.

For GEC's, and their investors', point of view, consolation comes because for an Internet-related story Fore's markets have a comforting connection with reality. Fore even generates a profit. That may be only $55 million on $632 million of sales, but Fore is growing at a spectacular rate. Sales were up 35 per cent last year. These are tangible products with tangible profit potential. Buy into equipment makers, not sevice providers. Buy new GEC.

BATM

BATM Advanced Communications is much like Fore, the US company bought yesterday by GEC, although it operates on a much smaller scale. BATM manufactures switching devices that shift information quickly and efficiently around the Internet.

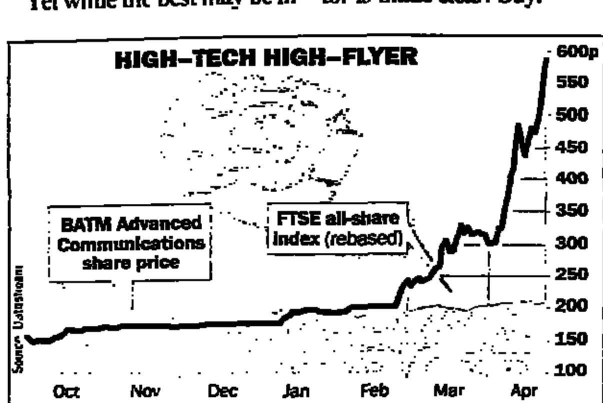
BATM may also follow Fore into the hands of a bidder. Yesterday BATM admitted said that "a multinational corporation" had agreed to take a 4.5 per cent stake in the company with the option of increasing this stake to 9.9 per cent in the future. The buyer is likely to be either Cisco or 3M, or even IBM, which supplies many of BATM's products alongside its own.

BATM, meanwhile, reported impressive annual results and the shares added 12 per cent to close at 585p to trade at an astonishing 82 times earnings. Tempus recommended the shares be bought last October, when the price was 162p.

Investors will be forgiven for wanting to take profits since then. After all, the company's success rests with a handful of newly developed products, which have yet to prove themselves in a hugely competitive market.

Yet while the best may be in the past there may be more to come here. BATM shares, currently listed on AIM, will join the main market soon. This will make the stock available to a new batch of fund managers, hungry for credible Internet stories.

BATM shares should also receive a boost when the identity of its multinational investor is made clear. Buy.



Biotechs

THE biotechnology sector seems to have shrugged off the departure of Mungo Park from Nomura International. Mr Park established what was known as the biotech bottom-fishing book, or BBFB. The bank acquired large stakes in eight or nine companies, and is believed to have smaller holdings in many more. It pitted Nomura's judgment on smaller biotech shares against the market's. The approach also produced some spectacular successes. Phytopharm, bought for less than 45p in late 1997, is now at 241p; Xenova, backed at 55p last autumn, is now at 106p.

The fear is Mr Park's exit will turn Nomura from biotech bull to biotech bear. After all, cynics say, taking a 10 per cent stake in a weak company is an expensive and risky way of attracting corporate advisory business. Nomura insists, as it would, that it remains committed to the emerging healthcare sector and that BBFB has the funds to take on short-sellers.

Time will tell. But despite the fact that the market has taken Mr Park's departure in its stride, investors need to look at the smaller players with renewed caution.

Meanwhile, the bigger companies, where Nomura's influence is much less important, look increasingly solid. Celltech and Chiroscience show particular promise.

First Leisure

EGO-MASSAGING semantics aside, Cannons is acquiring the fitness business of First Leisure. First Leisure also says it continues to investigate "strategic initiatives" for its two other businesses: bars and nightclubs, and tenpin bowling.

Whilst this could mean that it hopes to enlarge these businesses through acquisitions, it is more likely that a full-scale break-up of First Leisure is now in the offing. And who would have thought that two years ago when Michael Grade, with an enviable track record at Channel 4 behind him, took the reins?

The subsequent exit from bingo and resorts looked sensible, taking the group out of mature businesses and giving it money to expand in more go-go areas. But a downturn in two of those three continuing divisions meant Mr Grade garnered little credit for what he achieved. The decision now to sell fitness, the fastest growing division, is odd — if the group retains the will to survive and thrive.

First Leisure shares, up 4½p to 254½p, have recovered from October's low of 160½p, but are still short of the 436½p reached a year ago. Shareholders should hang on for the dénouement: yesterday's deal clearly puts First Leisure in play as a bid target if it is not broken up.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 99	116.75	116.85	116.31	116.46	15364	82164
	Sep 99				116.16	0	0
5-Year Gilt	Jun 99				107.57	0	0
	Sep 99				107.57	0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Jun 99	114.72	114.72	114.35	114.47	10474	36305
Japanese Govt Bond	Jun 99	134.89	134.96	134.83	134.94	476	0
	Sep 99				134.08	0	0
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 99	94.840	94.850	94.820	94.850	19725	179901
	Sep 99	94.850	94.890	94.840	94.880	24089	196694
	Dec 99	94.650	94.660	94.600	94.640	4719	148631
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 99	97.405	97.405	97.395	97.405	17862	206712
	Sep 99	97.425	97.430	97.410	97.420	18708	213891
	Dec 99	97.235	97.240	97.220	97.225	6580	130912
	Mar 00	97.300	97.305	97.275	97.285	5196	118506
	Jun 00	97.225	97.225	97.190	97.205	4844	67925
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 99	98.960	98.970	98.930	98.930	13022	107357
	Sep 99	98.880	98.880	98.840	98.850	5791	71867
3-Mth Euro Libor	Jun 99				97.405	0	104635
	Sep 99				97.420	0	91787
	Dec 99				97.225	0	82107
	Mar 00				97.285	0	82219
	Jun 00				97.305	0	62359
FTSE 100	Jun 99	6475.0	6558.0	6463.0	6539.0	15357	200203
	Sep 99				6588.0	0	6897

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5¼ Finance House 5½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5¼ Low 4½ Week fixed: 5⅛
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy 2 mth 5; 3 mth 4[illegible] Sell 2 mth 4[illegible], 3 mth 4[illegible]

[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $283.10-283.40 Close: $280.90-281.40 High: $283.10-283.40
Low: $280.20-280.70 AM: $283.10 PM: $281.50
Krugerrand: $288.00-290.00 (£178.00-180.00)
Platinum: $354.00 (£219.36) Silver: $5.10 (£3.165) Palladium: $352.50 (£218.40)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 26	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	11.300-11.320	11.300-11.313	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro	1.5202-1.5222	1.5204-1.5220	0.14-0.16ds	0.42-0.46ds
Montreal	2.3826-2.3938	2.3867-2.3896	0.16-0.09pr	0.37-0.24pr
New York	1.6124-1.6166	1.6124-1.6133	0.07-0.05pr	0.145-0.115pr
Oslo	12.578-12.623	12.578-12.595	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	13.322-13.558	13.521-13.545	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	191.76-192.19	191.76-191.95	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.4347-2.4400	2.4371-2.4396	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5432-1.5440
Canada	1.4810-1.4820
Denmark	7.0045-7.0095
Euro	0.9421-0.9430
Hong Kong	7.7494-7.7499
Japan	118.88-118.98
Malaysia	3.8000-3.8002
Norway	7.7990-7.8015
Singapore	1.6980-1.6990
Sweden	8.3830-8.3930
Switzerland	1.5102-1.5112

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6120-1.6220
Australia dollar	2.4901-2.4936
Bahrain dinar	0.6005-0.6157
Brazil real*	2.7335-2.7435
Cyprus pound	0.8705-0.8919
Euro	1.5199-1.5225
Finland markka	8.9602-9.1231
Greece drachma	489.75-501.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.5044-12.5130
India rupee	68.45-70.17
Indonesia rupiah	13525.0-14225.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4865-0.4989
Malaysia ringgit	6.1309-6.1331
New Zealand dollar	2.9468-2.9515
Pakistan rupee	79.05 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8025-5.9497
Singapore dollar	2.7399-2.7423
S Africa rand	9.6920-9.9438
U A E dirham	5.8525-6.0011

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	695	Kingfisher	5,655
ASDA Gp	20,546	Ladbroke	9,559
Abbey Ntl	1,549	Land Secs	1,517
Allnce & Leic	1,139	Legal & Gn	8,388
Allied Dom	1,841	Lloyds TSB	8,830
Allied Zrch	3,434	Marks Spr	4,827
Amvescap	866	Misys	1,287
AB Foods	1,153	Nat Grid	4,839
AstraZeneca	4,144	Nat Power	1,913
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

WALL STREET

[illegible]



ECONOMIC VIEW | ANATOLE KALETSKY



No surprise in better than expected performance

The predictions of the world's economic forecasters are confounded on a regular basis

If the world economy confounds conventional forecasts this year — and it *usually does — the main* surprises are likely to be on the side of better than expected performance. This is the clearest conclusion I drew from conversations with the many economic officials *gathered in* Washington this week for the meetings of the G7, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

In making this prediction, I *realise that last week's official* forecasts show global economic growth slowing to a feeble 2.3 per cent this year and then accelerating only modestly to *3.4 per cent in 2000.*

I also recognise that Michael Mussa, the IMF's chief economist, has publicly stated that the risks to the forecast are still mostly on the downside. Mr Mussa believes that the US economy could slow more sharply than expected after its fourth-consecutive year of rapid growth. In Europe, where the IMF predicts that growth will accelerate *from 2 to 3 per cent,* Mr Mussa admits disarmingly that "the basis for our forecast of stronger activity is not entirely clear". In Japan there is the very real possibility of an even *deeper depression and in Asia and other emerging markets* the hopes of recovery are still clouded by many doubts.

Why, then, do I feel fairly confident that the world economy will beat official forecasts?

One reason is simply mechanical. When economic trends turn around, computerised models almost always underestimate the strength of both recoveries and slumps. *This is not just a statistical* quirk; it reflects an important feature of the real-life behaviour of policymakers, as well as businessmen and consumers, which conventional fore*casts tend to ignore. This be*haviour can be summarised in the classic sequence of financial emotions that characterise the tops and bottoms of bull and bear markets — "scepticism, denial, capitulation".

As share prices rise towards the top of a bull market, investors are at first sceptical about the level of stock prices. As prices keep rising, the previously sceptical investors go *into denial — simply refusing* to believe that further gains are possible. Finally, when denial becomes impossible, the sceptics capitulate, throw caution to the winds and start buy*ing the shares they considered* overpriced when they were much cheaper several months or years before. It is usually soon after this point that a change in the trend *finally* occurs and the bull market collapses.



Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, which remains optimistic on US growth

Exactly *the same sequence* tends to occur, albeit in less visible form, among central bankers and businessmen at the top and bottom of an economic cycle. The most important examples at *present* can be seen in the behaviour of the Federal Reserve Board and the European Central Bank.

Let us start with the ECB. Throughout last year the ECB *and its predecessor, the Bun*desbank, simply refused to take seriously the possibility of an economic downturn in Europe. When recession turned from possibility into reality *last autumn, the ECB and the* Bundesbank went *into* outright denial.

First the Bundesbank issued ludicrous comments suggesting that the global economic *crisis would have less impact on Germany* than on the US when all the statistics on trade and financial exposure pointed to the opposite conclusion. Then *the* ECB went even further, *declaring that EMU would make* Europe an "oasis of stability" in the very same week that Alan Greenspan, Chairman of US Federal Reserve, pointed out that not *even the less-exposed* American economy could hope to re*main "an oasis of prosperity" in such a turbulent world.*

Earlier this month, however, the ECB seemed finally to make the transition from denial to capitulation. With its unexpected *0.5 per cent rate cut and the subsequent* statements by Wim Duisenberg, President of the ECB, implying that he welcomed the weakening of the euro, the ECB effectively threw in the towel on *its deflationary doctrines.*

Mr Duisenberg and his colleagues continue to pay lip service *to the dogma that monetary* policy has nothing to do with unemployment, but actions speak louder than words. Nobody I talked to in Washington last week was in doubt about the ECB's *new commit*ment to stimulating the European economy. The general view among the people who are familiar with the European central bankers could be summarised like *this: when ECB officials* say that they won't use monetary policy to manage the economic cycle, they may sound like fools; but don't worry, they are just liars.

It seems reasonable to assume, therefore, that the ECB will keep *easing monetary* policy and the euro will keep falling (albeit with occasional corrections) until such time as the key European economies, including Germany, the structur*ally weakest one, show clear signs of growth.*

But because there are bound to be long lags between interest rate cuts and visible signs of recovery, the ECB is likely to keep cutting interest rates even after a modest economic recovery is already "baked in the cake". This suggests that ECB policy will be eased far enough to ensure a stronger than expected recovery in euro*land as a whole, if not perhaps* in Germany.

In America, an opposite, but equally powerful, sequence of scepticism, denial and capitulation can be observed. The Fed *was until last year extremely* sceptical about Wall Street's belief that America was enjoying a "new paradigm" of rapid economic growth and low unemployment that carried no risk *of inflation.*

Last summer, as the statistical evidence in favour of a new paradigm mounted, the Russian crisis gave the Fed a convenient reason to *deny the importance of the whole ques*tion. Instead of worrying that excessive economic growth might lead to inflation, the Fed *quite rightly* switched its attention to the risk that financial turmoil would cause a slump.

But today, the Fed is being forced to shift its focus back to *inflation and rapid growth.* In doing so, the Fed seems to be capitulating in its struggle against the "new paradigm". Officials now seems to accept *that the US economy really* can grow strongly for years on end without risking inflation.

The greatest surprise in my trip to America has been to *hear senior Fed officials* speaking about the possibility that America's long-term trend growth rate may now be as high as 3 per cent, instead of *the 2 to 2.5 per cent generally* assumed even a year ago. Some also note that the present, apparently very low level of unemployment is actually very near the average in the 1950s and 1960s which was 4.6 per cent. If that level could be sustained in the postwar period without any serious inflationary problems, why should it not prove equally sustainable today?

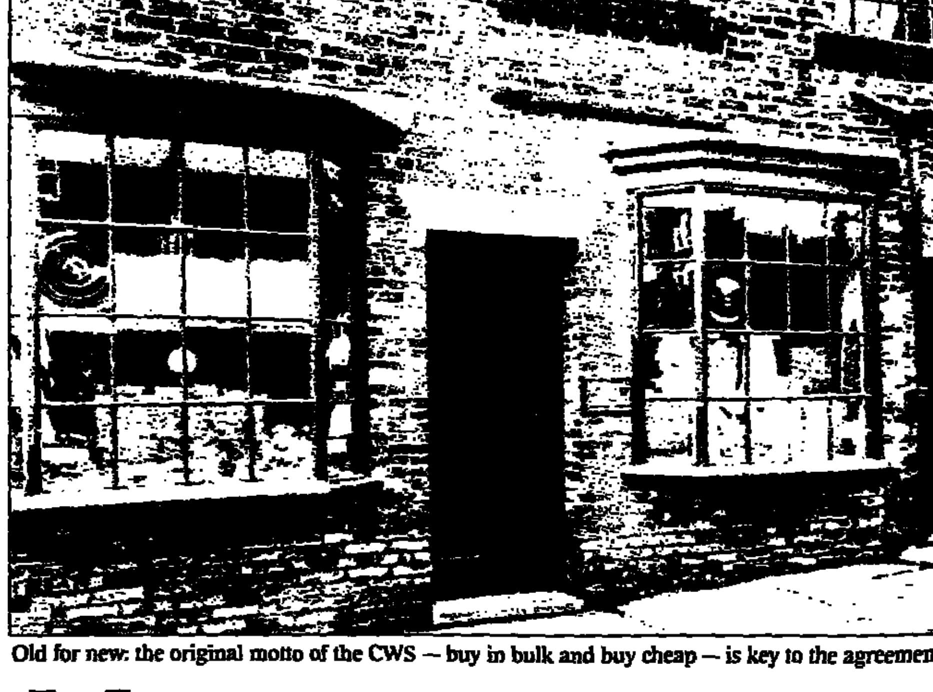
To put this question another way, maybe there is no need for a *new paradigm to* explain America's *excellent* economic performance. Perhaps it is sufficient to posit the old paradigm of the 1950s and early 1960s: a pragmatic mix of *free market industrial policies,* competitive labour markets and sensible demand management operating in a flexible, entrepreneurial economy.

I have believed for several *years that deregulated mar*kets combined with a return to the Keynesian "old paradigm" of active demand management could explain much of the recent economic success in America *(and also in Britain). To my surprise and delight,* I found senior Fed officials talking in very similar terms.

It remains to be seen whether events justify the Fed's optimism (and mine) about Ameri*ca's capacity for rapid, non-in*flationary growth. It may turn out that the Fed has already waited too long before raising interest rates. The bubble in technology stocks on Wall Street, the *consumer spending spree* and the upsurge in US business investment could soon turn into an unsustainable, and ultimately inflationary, boom.

In fact, *if I were an American central* banker I would start edging interest rates gently upwards now to restrain the enthusiasm a little. But the Fed seems less inclined than in the past to follow its tradition*al principle of* "taking away the punchbowl just when the party is getting merry".

Maybe the Fed is wrong to give the economy so much leeway: more probably it is right. But either way, there is one prediction that can be made with a fair degree of confidence: in America, even more than in Europe, the economic *surprises this year* are likely to *be on the upside.*



Old for new: the original motto of the CWS — buy in bulk and buy cheap — is key to the agreement

Moves to a merger may solve the Co-op conundrum

Fraser Nelson examines how the CWS and CRS will gain from reforming their alliance

What is the difference between a Co-operative and a Co-op? If *you don't know, don't worry* — this is one of the main problems that the fragmented and largely anonymous co-operative movement has to deal with.

This *is the issue which* yesterday's quasi-merger between the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) and Co-operative Retail Society (CRS) is aimed at clearing up.

The result is that the CRS, which trades as the "Co-operative", has pooled its buying power with the CWS, which sells goods labelled "Co-op".

In reforming an age-old alliance, *they hope to recapture* their buying power — and defend themselves from the best their capitalist counterparts have to throw at them.

Until fairly recently, the co-operative *movement was quite* straightforward. Almost all grocery shops traded under the distinctive "Co-op" logo, and issued stamps to shoppers who regularly queued for their "divi".

They set up the CWS, in 1863, to buy all the food. The idea was simple: buy in bulk; buy cheap to drive down prices; and let everyone share the profits.

As capitalists such as J Sainsbury expanded, the number of co-operative societies dwindled from a peak of 1,400 to 48 — each independent but sharing the same heritage and "not-for-profit" identity.

There are now two main camps. The first is dominated by the CWS, under Graham Melmoth — who two years ago saw off a hostile takeover approach from Andrew Regan, the *31-year-old* financier.

As well as being Britain's largest farmer and largest funeral *manager,* the CWS *runs* 560 of its own grocery shops. Its main task is to organise the "Co-operative Retail Trading Group" — a £3.5 billion food buying force which has steadily been joined *by various other co-operative* groceries.

CRS, which has 469 stores, has led the second faction and has been keen to steer clear of Mr Melmoth and his alliances.

Until seven months ago, it bought its food from its own "refusenik" alliance: the Consortium of Independent Co-operatives (CIC)— which it formed with United Norwest and the *Yorkshire Co-op.*

Both *companies* badly need to reduce costs to improve their financial performance. In May last year the CRS reported that losses had doubled to £26 mil*lion from £13.5 million, partly* because of a £155 *million invest*ment.

The CWS is in the black, but its interim profits slid to £16 million, from £20 million for the first six months of 1998. *Mr Melmoth blamed this on the* £7 million spent bringing back its "divi".

Much of the opposition to the CWS has been traced back to the era of Harry Moore, who *resigned as CRS chief executive* in October last year.

When the CIC alliance fell apart in September, Mr Moore said that the CRS would rather go it alone than join Mr Mel*moth and the CWS.*

When Mr Moore retired, he was replaced by Andy Meeham, a former Storehouse manager, drafted in to inject some capitalist-management styles into the CRS.

One of his first moves was to commission McKinsey, the management cosultant, to come up with proposals for a shake*up. The results came yesterday.* Mr Meeham has sold off its non-grocery businesses, comprising 46 department stores called "Living" and 10 Homeworld stores. This raised £149 *million.*

Next, Mr Meeham has ended years of resistance and decided to join Mr Melmoth's alliance — and has created a buying machine with firepower of *£4.5 billion a year.*

The idea is exactly the same as the original motto of the CWS: buy in bulk: and buy cheap. If effect, it generates all the price advantages of a full *merger — which many industry* observers think will be the next step.

Clive Beddall, editor of *The Grocer*, said: "A merger is bound to happen one day, but *it's been bound to happen* for *the last 20 years.* They are just following the trend in the industry."

Mr Melmothis aware of the continual danger. "The City *machine* — lawyers, advisers, *bankers, the press* — has a gargantuan appetite and it has to be fed," he said recently.

By ending years of rivalry with the CWS and returning to his society's co-operative roots, *Mr Meehan is also determined* that the CRS should also be kept from the jaws of the monster.

Peter out

SCANNING the speakers at tomorrow's Institute of Directors annual convention, I detect a politician-free zone. The *headlines* at last year's event were stolen by Peter Mandelson, who cunningly managed to be invited along even before he became Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

"The members requested after last year's convention not to have a political speech," the IoD tells me. Instead they get *Michael Grade, Britain's former "pornographer-in-chief",* and Sir Paul Condon of the Met Police, among others. So ends an odd *rapprochement*, even for the Blair era.

Two years ago Tim Melville-Ross, Director-General at the IoD, was tempted into some unwise remarks about how awful a Labour government would be, a prospect that *materialised soon afterwards.*

Mandy's visit was seen as cementing new Labour's relationship with all in the business world. But it seems they didn't want him back.



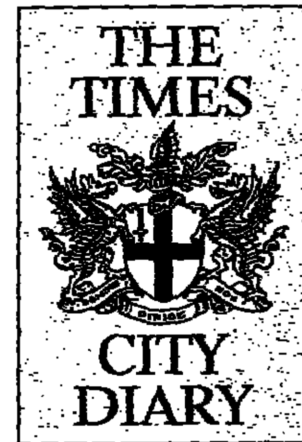
"With 2½ million members you're telling me you're not one of them"

FURTHER on the Prince of Darkness (rtd). Mandelson's recent trip to South Africa to help the ANC's election cause was sponsored by the AEEU. The union has just settled the bill, and I understand that Ken Jackson, general secretary, had insisted that Mandy went economy class.

The reason? Payback time for Mandelson's well-publicised remarks to the Labour conference last year about "horny handed sons of toil".

Mother lode

A SHARP-EYED Australian financial journalist set off a chain of events that led to the first successful legal action ever against a Swiss bank for



the return of Holocaust victims' assets. The story is told by James Kirby in *My Mother's Diamonds*, about the struggle to make the Swiss ad*mit to such accounts.*

The Irish-born Kirby was banking correspondent of *The Australian* when he came across a small ad in 1995 *placed by a suburban Austral*ian lawyer seeking claimants to recover assets lost to Swiss banks. Australia has, proportionately, the world's largest *community of Holocaust survi*vors outside Israel and stories he wrote for the paper brought hundreds of responses.

The book details the first settlement, by Swiss Bank Corporation with one of Henry Burstyner's clients. Publication was nearly prevented by a non-disclosure agreement signed by the lawyer, but enough of the story had come out beforehand.

Other litigants were successfully silenced, however. "The banks got better at this sort of thing soon after," says Kirby.

DANGEROUS things, e-mails. Steve Berry, assistant vice-president at Greenwich NatWest, fired off an electronic whinge to Liffe, the futures market, about having to work over the May and August Bank Holidays because European exchanges are open.

Copies of his message are, inexplicably, doing the rounds of the ether with various rude comments attached. "So now we are marching to the tune of the German Exchange." Berry rants. "Am I suddenly a European instead of British? Must I put my watch forward another hour?"

Berry is refusing to comment on what he says is personal correspondence, but a colleague says: "He's terribly upset about it all."

Photo call

LAST week Howard Stringer, chairman of Sony's American business, was barely known outside the TV world. He was then *"outed" as one of the* potential candidates to run the BBC. (He won't get it; the BBC governors are far too timid to appoint an American).

I have just been invited to photograph him today at his old school, Oundle, where he will address pupils on "The *Spirit of Enterprise*".

I immediately assumed that Stringer, who has bought a cottage in the Cotswolds and not ruled himself out for the BBC job, had started the publicity *mills working.*

Not at all. He doesn't know the cameras will be there. Someone at Oundle spotted that their old boy was newsworthy, according to the *school's communications* officer, Megan Smedley, who also teaches English. O brave new world, where schools have communications officers.

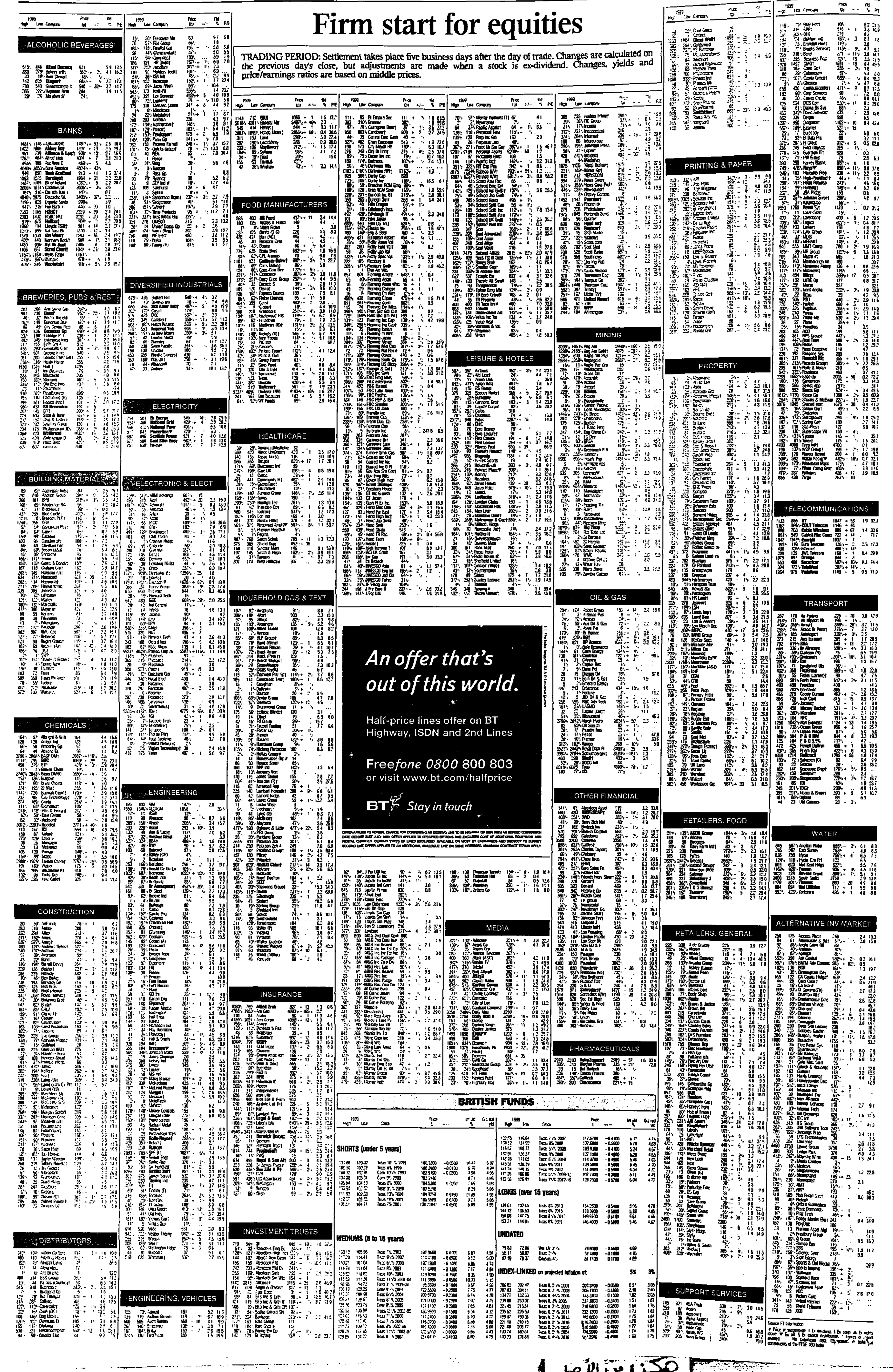
MARTIN WALLER

city.diary@the-times.co.uk



Howard Stringer is to address pupils at his former school, Oundle





Firm start for equities

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
ACM INVESTMENTS LTD				
0171 470 0100				
Shor Dtd Gilt	139.30	140.80		
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.8493	0.8582	+ 0.02	..
Gilt Income	55.16	56.02†	+ 0.04	5.40
Gilt Growth	100.78	102.40	+ 0.10	
Sterling Bond	56.16	57.18	+ 0.06	5.30
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	149.38	158.19	+ 0.19	
-do- NAV to Jan 19	145.58	145.58		
UK Equity Safeguard	130.04	138.39	+ 0.35	2.79
-do- NAV to Mar 19	114.050	116.0506		
US Eqy Safeguard	100.80	106.81	+ 0.19	
Cash	959.33	964.12	+ 1.00	4.50
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	454.03	481.27	+ 1.07	1.07
UK Small Cos	99.51	108.42	+ 0.52	0.30
FTSE 250 Index	118.30	126.53	- 0.40	1.64
Geared UK Index	#25.980	#27.4051	- 0.25	4.00
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	86.26	91.22	- 0.06	5.12
Monthly Inc	44.62	47.72†	+ 0.09	7.51
International Funds				
American Gen	412.86	436.61	+ 2.98	...
American Strat	185.14	197.81	+ 0.61	
5G US Index	#32.076	#33.783	+ 0.07	4.50
European Gen	440.24	465.86	- 1.31	0.08
European Strat	212.08	226.83	- 0.26	
Japan Gen	123.19	129.96	+ 1.19	
Asia Pacific	77.17	82.54	- 0.02	1.36
Pacific Strat	106.33	113.72	+ 0.01	
Greater China	198.27	212.06	+ 3.10	
Latin America	75.70	80.97	+ 0.50	
Intl Growth	207.58	221.39	+ 0.09	
Balanced Eurotrust	191.27	198.20		
Global Strategy	51.03	54.57	- 0.25	..

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Bridge Income #	418.30	445.00†	+ 2.70	3.98
Esk Growth	145.41	154.69†		0.57
Inc & Growth #	110.74	117.81	+ 1.05	2.44
Smaller Cos	134.81	143.42†	+ 0.54	1.32
Eur Spec Sit Inc	65.73	69.93	+ 0.78	1.85
Eur Spec Sit Acc	70.88	75.40	+ 0.84	1.85
Pennine Growth	61.95	65.90†	+ 0.05	0.87

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
M&W JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1684.70	1710.30†		2.70
Income #	1351.20	1373.50†		3.70
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	225.10	230.10†		2.05

CHOOSE YOUR TEAM FROM THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS

Columns show: code, player name, country, one day internationals, runs and wickets up to and including April 25

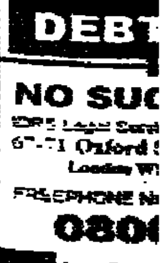
Code	Player	Country	ODIs	Runs	Wkts
BATSMEN					
101	Mark Waugh	AUS	181	6261	81
102	Michael Bevan	AUS	104	3484	31
103	Ricky Ponting	AUS	73	2566	1
104	Darren Lehmann	AUS	45	1311	8
105	Damien Martyn	AUS	33	629	1
106	Akram Khan	BAN	26	618	0
107	Shahriar Hossain	BAN	10	214	0
108	Mehrab Hossain	BAN	5	207	0
109	Faruk Ahmed	BAN	5	89	0
110	Graeme Hick	ENG	91	3112	21
111	Neil Fairbrother	ENG	70	2035	0
112	Graham Thorpe	ENG	48	1651	2
113	Nick Knight	ENG	44	1619	0
114	Nasser Hussain	ENG	28	550	0
115	Mohammad Azharuddin	IND	315	8949	12
116	Sachin Tendulkar	IND	211	7801	78
117	Ajay Jadeja	IND	164	4361	19
118	Sourav Ganguly	IND	99	3509	32
119	Rahul Dravid	IND	80	2367	1
120	Amay Khurasiya	IND	4	71	0
121	Sadagopan Ramesh	IND	7	189	0
122	Steve Tikolo	KEN	25	688	17
123	Hitesh Modi	KEN	25	533	0
124	Deepak Chudasama	KEN	19	432	0
125	Alpesh Vader	KEN	11	102	0
126	Ravindu Shah	KEN	8	279	0
127	Sandip Gupta	KEN	7	119	0
128	Stephen Fleming	NZL	100	2848	1
129	Craig McMillan	NZL	39	911	16
130	Roger Twose	NZL	36	989	4
131	Matthew Horne	NZL	36	641	0
132	Salim Malik	PAK	279	7150	89
133	Ijaz Ahmed	PAK	226	5988	5
134	Inzamam-Ul-Haq	PAK	182	5867	2
135	Saeed Anwar	PAK	170	6172	5
136	Yousuf Youhana	PAK	20	576	0
137	Wajahatullah Wasti	PAK	3	86	3
138	Jonty Rhodes	SAF	151	3572	0
139	Daryll Cullinan	SAF	113	3414	5
140	Gary Kirsten	SAF	103	3815	0
141	Herschelle Gibbs	SAF	27	806	0
142	Dale Benkenstein	SAF	10	194	0
143	George Salmond	SCO	9	253	0
144	Ian Philip	SCO	9	205	0
145	Mike Smith	SCO	8	161	0
146	Bruce Patterson	SCO	0	0	0
147	Arjuna Ranatunga	SRI	263	7295	79
148	Aravinda De Silva	SRI	253	7965	83
149	Roshan Mahanama	SRI	208	5026	0
150	Hashan Tillakaratne	SRI	180	3439	6
151	Marvin Atapattu	SRI	68	2022	0
152	Mahela Jayawardene	SRI	19	480	1
153	Brian Lara	WIN	141	5629	2
154	Keith Arthurton	WIN	104	1898	42
155	Jimmy Adams	WIN	81	1307	22
156	Shivnarine Chanderpaul	WIN	66	2018	12
157	Stuart Williams	WIN	53	1570	1
158	Sherwin Campbell	WIN	45	1153	0
159	Alistair Campbell	ZIM	97	2483	8
160	Murray Goodwin	ZIM	31	846	3
161	Stuart Carlisle	ZIM	12	208	0
WICKETKEEPERS					
201	Adam Gilchrist	AUS	58	1861	0
202	Khaled Mashud	BAN	20	155	0
203	Jehangir Alam	BAN	3	4	0
204	Alec Stewart	ENG	120	3253	0
205	Nayan Mongia	IND	132	1222	0
206	Kennedy Otieno	KEN	25	745	0
207	Adam Parore	NZL	114	2670	0
208	Moin Khan	PAK	129	1895	0
209	Mark Boucher	SAF	30	198	0
210	Alec Davies	SCO	8	74	0
211	Ramesh Kaluwitharana	SRI	112	1930	0
212	Ridley Jacobs	WIN	23	233	0
213	Andy Flower	ZIM	105	3197	0
ALL-ROUNDERS					
301	Steve Waugh	AUS	258	5841	187
302	Tom Moody	AUS	63	1071	38
303	Shane Lee	AUS	23	286	21
304	Aminul Islam	BAN	26	566	5
305	Khaled Mahmud	BAN	11	188	11
306	Naimur Rahman	BAN	11	167	5
307	Neeyamur Rashid	BAN	1	4	1
308	Adam Hollioake	ENG	32	600	31
309	Mark Ealham	ENG	34	441	36
310	Vince Wells	ENG	9	141	8
311	Ian Austin	ENG	7	34	3
312	Andrew Flintoff	ENG	4	85	5
313	Robin Singh	IND	80	1338	46
314	Maurice Odumbe	KEN	25	593	19
315	Thomas Odoyo	KEN	24	275	20
316	Tony Suji	KEN	13	143	5
317	Jimmy Kamande	KEN	0	0	0
318	Chris Harris	NZL	127	2316	121
319	Chris Cairns	NZL	101	2340	93
320	Nathan Astle	NZL	82	2768	54
321	Wasim Akram	PAK	265	2676	371
322	Shahid Afridi	PAK	82	1912	53
323	Azhar Mahmood	PAK	60	608	63
324	Hansie Cronje	SAF	159	4825	101
325	Shaun Pollock	SAF	70	1005	103
326	Jacques Kallis	SAF	65	2127	44
327	Lance Klusener	SAF	53	1307	73
328	Derek Crookes	SAF	24	243	15
329	Greg Williamson	SCO	9	171	10
330	Mike Allingham	SCO	5	71	7
331	Iain Stanger	SCO	0	0	0
332	Gavin Hamilton	SCO	0	0	0
333	Sanath Jayasuriya	SRI	178	4672	152
334	Upul Chandana	SRI	50	539	47
335	Chandika Hathurusinghe	SRI	35	669	14
336	Carl Hooper	WIN	182	4612	163
337	Phil Simmons	WIN	138	3662	78
338	Henderson Bryan	WIN	6	12	5
339	Grant Flower	ZIM	92	3080	41
340	Paul Strang	ZIM	72	955	79
341	Guy Whittall	ZIM	72	1509	49
342	Neil Johnson	ZIM	14	500	9
343	Dirk Viljoen	ZIM	12	148	6
BOWLERS					
401	Shane Warne	AUS	115	596	182
402	Glenn McGrath	AUS	86	49	122
403	Paul Reiffel	AUS	86	502	99
404	Damien Fleming	AUS	51	32	82
405	Adam Dale	AUS	24	56	27
406	Brendon Julien	AUS	23	215	22
407	Hasibal Hussain	BAN	20	122	22
408	Mohammad Rafique	BAN	16	237	15
409	Enamul Hoque	BAN	16	91	7
410	Shafiuddin Ahmed	BAN	8	27	10
411	Manzurul Islam	BAN	1	1	1
412	Darren Gough	ENG	60	300	97
413	Robert Croft	ENG	42	287	40
414	Angus Fraser	ENG	39	123	46
415	Alan Mullally	ENG	24	45	28
416	Anil Kumble	IND	167	531	224
417	Javagal Srinath	IND	161	678	220
418	Venkatesh Prasad	IND	111	143	134
419	Ajit Agarkar	IND	36	215	68
420	Debashish Mohanty	IND	20	9	20
421	Nikhil Chopra	IND	14	97	10
422	Asif Karim	KEN	25	167	23
423	Martin Suji	KEN	23	48	17
424	Mohammed Sheikh	KEN	15	35	17
425	Joseph Angara	KEN	4	6	2
426	Gavin Larsen	NZL	113	599	107
427	Dion Nash	NZL	58	435	47
428	Simon Doull	NZL	40	172	34
429	Daniel Vettori	NZL	38	188	27
430	Geoff Allott	NZL	13	14	23
431	Matthew Hart	NZL	11	49	13
432	Carl Bulfin	NZL	3	9	0
433	Waqar Younis	PAK	172	537	283
434	Mushtaq Ahmed	PAK	130	343	144
435	Saqlain Mushtaq	PAK	98	469	187
436	Abdul Razzaq	PAK	14	105	14
437	Shoaib Akhtar	PAK	16	52	27
438	Allan Donald	SAF	112	73	190
439	Nicky Boje	SAF	18	74	17
440	Steve Elworthy	SAF	15	15	20
464	Alan Dawson*	SAF	1	0	1
442	Keith Sheridan	SCO	8	9	12
443	John Blain	SCO	4	13	7
444	James Brinkley	SCO	0	6	0
445	Asim Butt	SCO	0	0	0
446	Nick Dyer	SCO	0	0	0
447	Peter Steindl	SCO	0	0	0
448	Muttiah Muralitharan	SRI	110	151	151
449	Pram'ya Wickramasinghe	SRI	110	236	87
450	Chaminda Vaas	SRI	107	506	135
451	Ruwan Kalpage	SRI	85	831	73
452	Eric Upashantha	SRI	4	13	4
453	Courtney Walsh	WIN	188	295	206
454	Curtly Ambrose	WIN	161	615	213
455	Mervyn Dillon	WIN	16	21	24
456	Reon King	WIN	12	38	16
457	Nehemiah Perry	WIN	6	24	5
458	Heath Streak	ZIM	73	869	89
459	Eddo Brandes	ZIM	58	383	69
460	Andrew Whittall	ZIM	44	140	38
461	Adam Huckle	ZIM	16	9	6
462	Mpumelelo Mbangwa	ZIM	15	24	7
463	Henry Olonga	ZIM	7	6	8

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Firms enjoying an academic achievement

Henrietta Lake and **Widget Finn** find companies linking up with universities for mutual benefits

The Government is attempting to turn Britain's ivory towers into engines for economic growth. It wants to encourage universities to play a much bigger role in creating a strong and competitive British economy, while helping small and medium-sized firms to tap into the wealth of knowledge and expertise available.

Links between higher education and industry have already been growing, from university-based science parks and incubation centres to collaborative research projects, each also helping to generate new sources of revenue for the universities. However, there is still a long way to go before Britain recreates the level of success in the United States, where, for example, Stanford and other universities around Silicon Valley are estimated to have spawned a trillion dollars' worth of companies.

Meanwhile, schemes are under way here to create US-style clusters of technology businesses around universities and to ease planning and development regulations where science-based industries are growing.

Companies that cannot afford to fund, or do not have the expertise in-house to develop, their own research and development facilities should explore the opportunities available through higher education.

Cambridge, the "Silicon Valley of the Fens", has so far provided the best model in the UK of collaborative efforts between business and academics.

A study by Segal Quince Wicksteed, the consultants, found that more than a third of the local small firms surveyed said that university connections and research had been significant to their work and growth.

Deltex, a medical research company in Chichester, West Sussex, is using its links with academia to provide new sources of revenue.

Deltex, which turns over £1 million and employs 19, last year launched a three-way partnership with Addenbrooke's Hospital and Cambridge University to develop an ultrasound monitor to measure pressure in the brain.

John Paxman, director of operations at Deltex, said: "Top clinicians at Addenbrooke's provide the medical expertise and Deltex supplies the technical knowhow. When the technique is patented and marketed, the partners will share the profits."

Arcall, a Dorset firm that turns over £5 million a year manufacturing equipment for coating food products, has also seen great advantages in having an academic partner. Richard Woollard, commercial director, said: "We approached several research institutes to collaborate on developing testing methods, and the response from Cambridge was particularly quick and lucid."

A consultancy agreement developed into a commercial partnership in which Arcall and the university share intellectual property rights and any profits from the new patent that has just been granted.

Muscat, a firm producing search facilities for electronic catalogues and whose customers include Reuters and the BBC, found the venture capital it needed from Cambridge's incubation unit: the St John's Innovation Centre.

Other universities are attempting to mirror Cambridge's success.

Manchester Biotech was set up by Manchester University in 1997, while the University of East London recently opened the Thames Gateway Technology Centre in Docklands.

Businesses can make contact via the Science Park Association and Regional Development Agencies.

Contacts: Thames Gateway Technology Centre (0181-849 3458); St John's Innovation Centre (01223 420252); Manchester Biotech (0161-606 7200); Science Park Association (0121-359 0981).

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PETER TREVNOR

John Paxman, of Deltex, which has formed a partnership with Cambridge and Addenbrooke's

IN BRIEF

Company sellers face bug threat

■ More information on the potential effects of the millennium bug is being offered by accountants and lawyers.

Company owners wishing to sell their businesses in 1999 should move swiftly, according to BDO Stoy Hayward, the firm of chartered accountants.

The firm says that trade buyers and venture capital buyers may reduce their acquisition activity towards the end of the year because of worries about effects of the millennium bug.

Sales of private companies in 1998 increased by 16 per cent to 1,298, the highest level for a decade.

BDO Stoy Hayward can be contacted on 0171-486 5888 and at www.bdo.co.uk.

A new edition of *The Millennium Bug: A guide to the legal issues in business* by Stephen Mason, a barrister, can be downloaded free from www.reachoutmedia.com.

It examines the potential problems if computer systems fail.

■ The 1999 British Franchise Association Survey, sponsored by NatWest Bank, has just been published. According to the report, franchising turnover has risen by 6 per cent, to £7.4 billion, and the total franchise-related market is worth £57.9 billion. The report also looks at what is involved in applying for a franchise and the costs involved. The BFA Survey costs £87.50 and can be ordered via the BFA website at www.british-franchise.org.uk or by calling 01491 578049.

■ Online information about the credit status of unincorporated businesses is being offered by ICC, the business information service, through its new product, Insight Plus. Details from www.icc.co.uk and on 0181-481 8800.

■ The British Bankers' Association has issued a guide to sources of micro-finance for small and start-up firms. *Micro Credit in the UK* is free from BBA Publications on 0171-216 8816 and through the website at www.bba.org.uk.

From discs to disks

By Matthew Barbour



AFTER eight years of running his own recording studio, John Lambert felt it was time for a change. "My studio was little more than a hobby," says the man involved in producing the work of musicians such as George Michael to explain his switch into Web design.

"Music recording is a parallel process to website management," Mr Lambert adds. "It's highly technical, but fundamentally a creative operation."

Mr Lambert set up Hyperlink in 1993 as companies such as Demon were entering the new Internet market. Noticing the growth of firms keen to use the Internet as a marketing tool and the success of companies such as Demon cashing in on the phenomenon, he sold his studio and went into partnership with his wife, Isabel O'Brien, and Simon Hampton, a telecommunications engineer, to form Hyperlink.

The company, offering a full service of design, Web marketing, consultancy and programming, is now one of the UK's largest independent Web agencies. Over the past three years, turnover has risen 3,772 per cent, and 1998's £1.4 million profit has already been beaten.

Early on, with few clients, it created its own Web "community" with a trial health and fitness site. "It was the perfect R&D vehicle, with minimum risk," Mr Lambert says. The BodyIsland site is the world's largest health Internet community, with 50,000 members and consultations with doctors.

Hyperlink now has 50 staff, and users of its Web services include Virgin Net, Debenhams and Somerfield.

☐ *Application forms for Entrepreneur of the Year are available on 0845 6041012. Entrepreneurs can nominate themselves or be nominated. Applications must be in by Friday.*

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.eoy.co.uk

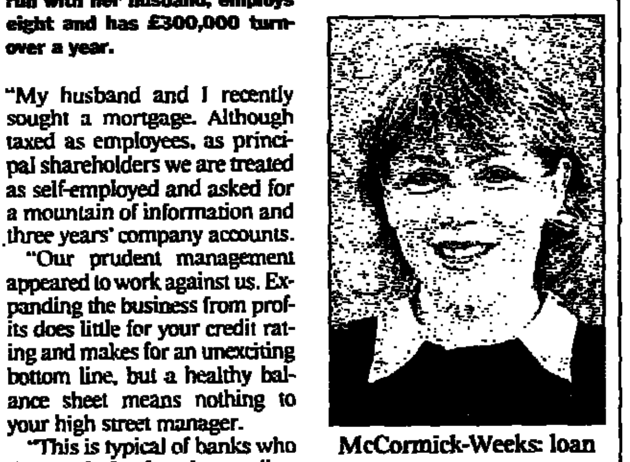
MEGAPHONE

Lydia McCormick-Weeks, director of Hang-Ups Accessories, a maker of curtain fittings, says decisions on loans to small firms are often made by bank staff lacking insight. Hang-Ups, run with her husband, employs eight and has £300,000 turnover a year.

"My husband and I recently sought a mortgage. Although taxed as employees, as principal shareholders we are treated as self-employed and asked for a mountain of information and three years' company accounts.

"Our prudent management appeared to work against us. Expanding the business from profits does little for your credit rating and makes for an unexciting bottom line, but a healthy balance sheet means nothing to your high street manager.

"This is typical of banks who show a lack of understanding of the problems in starting a business. You have to fight the safe 'tick box' criteria organisations use in making decisions."



McCormick-Weeks: loan

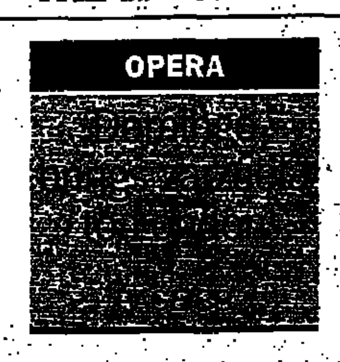
☐ *Any company wishing to put a view in Megaphone should contact henrietta.lake@the-times.co.uk*



FILM
Blanchett reaches for the skies
PAGE 37

THE TIMES ARTS

OPERA





RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargie

LONDON

PLENTY: Cate Blanchett plays David Hare's heroine in her years of dissent from 1943 to the 1960s. Jonathan Kent directs first major revival for 21 years.
Albery (0171-369 1740) Opens tonight, 7pm.

ALL PASSION SPENT: New stage version of Vita Sackville-West's story of the widow who dismays her children with her revolutionary views. Alison Clarke directs for Stop Gap. One week only.
Wimbledon Studio (0181-540 0362). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

MUSIC THEATRE KERNOW: This visit by the popular touring company offers productions of Donizetti's comedy L'Elisir d'Amore (tonight, May 7 and 8, 7.30pm) and, in association with Modern Baroque Opera from Vancouver, Gluck's enchanting chamber piece La Cinesi (tomorrow and May 6, 7.30pm).
Bloomsbury (0171-388 8822). ☒

SPRING LOADED: Choreographer Susanne Thomas directs her Seven Sisters Group in Salomé performed in the spooky underground chambers of the unused St Pancras Hotel on Euston Road. In this quirky multimedia event audience members are guided, one by one, through a maze of mirrors, video projections, movement and sound. Tonight-Sun.
Box Office: (0171-387 0031) *for performance times and availability.*



David Hare's *Plenty* is staged at the Albery

ELSEWHERE

ABERDEEN: Scottish Ballet's spring season kicks off its short run here with performances of Light Fandango choreographed by Robert North and set to traditional Scottish and Irish themes, followed by Bournonville's charming Romantic piece La Sylphide reproduced by Hans Brenaa.
His Majesty's Theatre (01224 641122). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. ☒

SALISBURY: Dominic Dromgoole's production of Three Sisters for Oxford Stage Co arrives here for a week en route to London's Whitehall Theatre.
Playhouse (01722 320333). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. ☒

WORTHING: Women on the Verge of HRT, Marie Jones's warm comedy with music, revolves around two forty-something fans of the heart-throb singer Daniel O'Donnell. Pam Brighton directs for Dubblejoint.
Connaught (0903 235333). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm. ☒

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ☒ Some seats available ☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **THE BIRTHDAY PARTY:** Prunella Scales and Timothy West head a strong cast in Pinter's first full-length play, memorably joining comedy and menace. Joe Harmston directs.
Piccadilly (0171-369 1734).

☒ **CANDIDE:** Great songs in Bernstein's musical drawn from Voltaire. John Caird and Trevor Nunn direct excellent cast led by Daniel Evans, Alex Kelly and Simon Russell Beale.
Olivier (0171-452 3000). ☒

☒ **MAMMA MIA!:** Enjoyable musical that tells a tale of three fathers of a bride in order to steer a barmy way through a torrent of Abba hits.
Prince Edward (0171-447 5400).

☐ **THE CUCKOO AND THE NIGHTINGALE:** Another Nazi faces interrogation, this time Rudolf Hess quizzed by his Spandau guard in Don Hood's two-hander. See review, page 38.
New End, NW3 (0171-794 0022). ☒

☐ **SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER:** Sheila Gish plays the venomous mother and Rachel Weisz the traumatised niece in the famous Tennessee Williams shocker. Sean Mathias directs.
Comedy (0171-369 1731).

☐ **MAKING NOISE QUIETLY:** Dominic Dromgoole's Oxford Stage Co opens a London season with Robert Holman's trilogy of short plays where strangers meet at a time of war.
Whitehall (0171-369 1735.

☐ **THE GIN GAME:** Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland play old folk in a retirement home whose card-playing styles echo their sad lives.
Savoy (0171-836 8888). ☒

☐ **THE DISPUTE:** Superb production by Neil Bartlett of his translation of Marivaux where four imprisoned adolescents meet the world and each other for the first time.
Lyric, W6 (0181-741 2311). ☒

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

8mm (18): Nicolas Cage, in his most magnetic role ever, plays a private eye who sifts the ugly facts surrounding a snuff movie. Director Joel Schumacher lets a devious plot ride roughshod over the deviant issues. A pleasure nonetheless.

BESIEGED (PG): Bernardo Bertolucci's touch in this strange romance between David Thewlis and Thandie Newton is exquisitely light and subtle. A vintage romance and a thrilling film.

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (12): A corked romance with Kevin Costner and Robin Wright Penn. A tear-jerker. Take a life-jacket. Luis Mandoki directs.

THE BRYLCREEM BOYS (15): Unbelievable Irish baloney set in a Kildare prisoner-of-war camp in 1941. With Gabriel Byrne, Joe McGann and Angus MacFadyen. Terence Ryan is responsible.

OUT OF THE PRESENT (U): Russian space documentary. A seriously slippery account of endurance. Andrei Ujica directs.

DANCE WITH ME (PG): A kitsch feast for Come Dancing enthusiasts with a little Latin heartache on the side. Randa Haines directs.

CURRENT

AN IDEAL HUSBAND (PG): Oliver Parker's sumptuous homage to Wilde's ever-fashionable play is hijacked by Rupert Everett's madly charming Lord Goring. With Jeremy Northam and Cate Blanchett.

HAPPINESS (18): Poisonous but gripping black comedy about dismal urban attempts to find happiness. Todd Solondz's film walks an original, edgy line between fantastic humour and ghastly habits.

RETURN TO PARADISE (15): Joseph Ruben's crisis of conscience film is only a fitful suspense about two American buddies who face years in a Malaysian prison if they return to help their condemned buddy.

Indie goes to school

POP



Bowlie Weekender
Camber Sands

A strange mixture of obsessive fan convention and teddy bear's picnic, the inaugural Bowlie Weekender festival went off without any serious hitches in the sleepy East Sussex holiday resort of Camber Sands last weekend. Organised by the Glasgow-based cult band Belle and Sebastian, winners of the 1999 Brit award for Best Newcomer, this three-day event was intended to showcase the finest independent music past and present, with a bill hand-picked by the hosts themselves.

Based at Pontin's holiday camp, the sold-out festival had an oddly nostalgic ambience. Kitted out like Enid Blyton characters in duffel coats, school satchels and hairgrips, the 2,600 ticketholders seemed keen to recreate some sort of idealised pre-pubescent playground. The casual drug use which attends more orthodox rock festivals was barely evident, although there was doubtless a healthy black market in Smarties and Ribena.

Apologists for Belle and Sebastian and their diehard "indie" philosophy insist that Bowlie is the future of festivals, the antidote to impersonal events like Glastonbury with their appalling amenities and mainstream musical agenda. More cynical voices might argue that this is the last gasp of a creatively and ideologically bankrupt subculture, limping off to its seaside retirement home with only its rose-tinted memories for company.

Either way, Bowlie undoubtedly generated a friendly atmosphere, and boasted cosy chalet accommodation far superior to most rock festivals.

Serious scholars of rock history might well protest at the conservative musical menu, which was almost exclusively white and guitar-based. Judged on its own terms, though, the weekend proved highly enjoyable.

A sizeable chunk of the bill added up to a comprehensive anthology of independent Scottish bands from the past 15 years. Veteran indie luminaries such as the Pastels and Teenage Fanclub, each plying their own distinctive brands of classic guitar rock, rubbed shoulders with their more wilfully atonal Clydeside offspring AC Acoustics and the Delgados. All were enthusiastically received, but a bigger stir was caused by surprise guests Mogwai, whose volcanic rock instrumentals have garnered international acclaim in the past 18 months.

In fact, Mogwai were exceptional for being probably the only British act at Bowlie who could match the festival's foreign contingent for hardcore intensity. Explosive New York trio the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion brought a much-needed dash of sexually charged, primal punk attitude to proceedings. Similarly, the Montreal collective Godspeed You Black Emperor conjured up remarkably fierce, darkly atmospheric instrumentals by employing violins and cellos with violent irreverence.

The all-female American trio Sleater-Kinney brought a flinty, fractious brand of fast-paced guitar pop to Bowlie. Not to be outdone, the versatile Japanese multi-instrumentalist Cornelius abandoned the electronic soundscape of his records to deliver a punishingly loud garage-rock set.



ANGELA LUBRANO

Having a hi-de-hi time: Jonathan Donahue of underground veterans Mercury Rev

But the biggest non-British attractions of the weekend were undoubtedly two veteran American underground bands, Mercury Rev and the Flaming Lips. Universally lauded for their 1998 album *Deserter's Songs*, Mercury Rev played a magisterial set grounded in rootsy traditionalism but peppered with more experimental echoes of their arty past. At times it was like listening to a Seventies stadium supergroup, with meandering guitar solos which threatened to stretch until Christmas, but their masterful marriage of quavering choirboy vocals to toweringly anthemic tunes left little room for any reaction besides awe-struck reverence. The Flaming Lips, meanwhile, seem poised to repeat Mercury Rev's success with their imminent album *A Soft Bulletin*. Blending pre-recorded orchestral strings with guitars, keyboards and soaringly melancholic vocals, these grey-templed Oklahomans played a blazing set of soulful psychedelia touched by occasional flashes of transcendent majesty.

Closing the weekend's festivities were Belle and Sebastian themselves, who certainly deserve commendation as festival hosts. Their music, however, remains an acquired taste. Precious teenage poetry, reedy church-mouse vocals and anaemic instrumentation merely reaffirm the most negative and unwittingly comic stereotypes about indie music, cult following or not. Bowlie was a fine idea, but perhaps they should stick to purely administrative roles next time.

STEPHEN DALTON

Royal old retainers

They didn't look like living legends and they sounded pretty much like any rockabilly tribute band playing the local palais on a Saturday night. So familiar has the sound become that you had to pinch yourself to believe that 45 years ago in Memphis, the pair on the Mean Fiddler stage were the originals who had hooked up with a singer called Elvis Presley and invented rock'n'roll.

With so many making a decent living out of the Presley heritage industry, you can't blame **Scotty Moore** and **D.J. Fontana** for coming out of retirement to grab their own piece of the action. Now 68, Moore was the guitarist responsible for all those amazing licks on *Heartbreak Hotel*, *Hound Dog* and every other song until 1958 when Presley went into the army. Fontana was the drummer providing that distinctive backbeat. Ten years later, they were reunited with the King on his comeback TV special. It was the last time they ever saw him.

This was a strange evening, for although they were billed as the headliners, Moore and Fontana continue to behave like sidemen. Neither sang or even spoke to the audience, leaving the cheerleading to the pick-up band of British musicians led by singer Ian Cunningham. He had a more than passable early Elvis rockabilly voice but he still belonged to the school of journeyman imitators.

They ran through the early Presley catalogue more or less chronologically for just over an hour, starting with *That's All Right (Mama)* and ending with 1958's *King Creole*, and there were many who were thrilled just to see two veterans of the Sun studio standing on stage. The fact that they could still play a bit was almost a bonus. Earlier in a radio interview, Moore had been unable even to remember the names of the pick-up band, and as they reprieved *Mystery Train* for the second time you couldn't help feeling it was all a bit sad.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

And for his next trick...

The American alternative country scene is a booming cottage industry right now but Arizona's Howe Gelb and his band, Giant Sand, have been quietly releasing leftfield rootsy folk records since the 1980s. Their collaboration with kooky singer/songwriter Lisa Germano on the OP8 project resulted in one of the best albums of 1997 in *Slush*, and now Gelb has just released his first solo album, *Hisser*, on the V2 label.

Recorded mostly at his Tucson home using a 19th-century upright grand piano, a Salvation Army pump organ and a turn-of-the-century gut string acoustic guitar, *Hisser* is a sparse but beautiful record that seems spooked by its time-travelled instruments and the ghosts of the balmy desert which surround it. Yet it translated extremely well to a Dublin stage on this, the fag end of Gelb's European tour.



Whelan's bar is the ideal location for such a gig, thanks in part to the warm, orange glow of its soft lighting, and the welcoming tables and chairs in front of the stage that allow the clusters of people further back in this snug venue a clear view of proceedings.

Tall, dark and strikingly handsome, Gelb looks like a character in a Bruce Springsteen road song, with his denim shirt, cowboy boots and gruff, goatee beard. All the stage is his playground, as he shuffles from electric piano to acoustic guitar to the array of fanciful gadgetry on show. Almost by way of an apology for the fact that he is the only musician at work, he runs pre-recorded tapes through a tiny mixer on stage which is in turn run through distortion, delay and tremolo pedals. By all accounts, he prepares no set list.

Such wilful spontaneity and jaunty haphazardry kept him on his toes and us continually surprised and excited by his *next trick*. One minute, he is playing a live recording of two Pakistani sisters singing an Abba standard in Hindu, the next he is picking on his acoustic guitar and singing a mournful, wasted-sounding ballad about "the flaws of rapture" that puts one in mind of *On The Beach*-era Neil Young.

But no matter how disparate the musical styles or how quirky the experimentalism, the imprimatur of Gelb's singular talent is always visible.

NICK KELLY

Too many blips on the screen

Despite a starry cast and director, *Pushing Tin* has not set America alight. **Giles Whittell** reports

BIG SCREEN USA

When the director of *Four Weddings and a Funeral* makes a comedy thriller about air traffic controllers, you have to ask why. What made Mike Newell think the singularly specialised profession of aerial orienteering was his sort of material? The short answer is that the *New York Times Magazine* ran a story on air traffic controllers in 1996 that caught his eye. The longer one must be that he thought he could heat up some compelling human drama in the pressure cooker of a windowless room filled with radar screens.

Well, he hasn't. **Pushing Tin** is a film that lures you in with the promise of slick New York laughs and slabs of jargon-laden dialogue (which is, to be sure, one of the great unacknowledged crowd-pullers; just ask Tom Stoppard), only to leave you lollygagging in Long Island at two moderately interesting couples being unfaithful to each other.

Pushing Tin — the phrase refers to the business of moving planes around the sky — is also a gift to film critics fond of clumsy metaphors. It's "a lively flight for most of the way", said *Variety*, generously. *People* magazine decided it "fails to stay aloft". The *Chicago Sun Times* likened it to "an overloaded airplane strugging to lift off", and the *Los Angeles Times* called it a "near miss".

To be fair, for its first half-hour it soars. Giant metal tubes with fuel-laden wings do their dangerous ballet over the world's most dramatic cluster of skyscrapers as knowing voiceovers speak rapidly of knots, altitude and sharp left turns. Indoors, little diamonds of light move jerkily across expensive-looking "scopes" and flash red when they get too close to each other.

This is New York's air traffic control centre which, thanks to Kennedy, Newark and La Guardia airports, apparently handles "more planes, closer together, than anywhere else on earth". West Drayton may disagree, but when we hear that each controller is "responsible for more lives in a single shift than a surgeon in his entire life", we dare not quibble. The sensation is not unlike watching *ER*; we are under the spell of competence, and this makes it unnerving that the controllers themselves are so close to being bonkers. Only one of them is female, and she's a bodybuilder, while the sanest of the men is insanely competitive.

Meet Nick "the Zone" Falzone, played by John Cusack. He can line up half-a-dozen incoming jumbos while serenading his colleagues in a dulcet baritone, and still leave time for private banter with each pilot. Lines like "Welcome to my sky, my favourite redneck" are his idea of chumminess.

Falzone starts out happily married to Cate Blanchett who, as a Long Island housewife with a flawless Italian-American accent, is so unrecognisable from Elizabeth that she must be the real thing — a film star who can act. Then Russell Bell (Billy Bob Thornton) strides in from Arizona, where he had a reputation as the best controller in the West and liked to lie down under landing "heavies" to feel the effects of weight turbulence. The turbulence sent Bell cartwheeling across the runway, and he has a video to prove it. His 19-year-old wife, played by Angelina Jolie, has a similar effect on Falzone's marriage when she allows him to seduce her after he finds her in tears in a supermarket over a dead fuchsia hybridium.

With this film Thornton joins Gene Hackman and Robert Duvall in the pantheon of great scene-stealers. Asked if he enjoys sports, for instance, he says he "used to bowl" when he was an alcoholic, and makes it sound as if he liked stealing babies too. Meanwhile, Jolie — who is Jon Voigt's daughter — looks convincingly lost in New York, and Cusack effortlessly carries the affair along, insofar as it goes anywhere.

Here lies the problem. The dialogue is sharp and sounds authentic, as it should when written by Glen and Les Charles, two of the creators of *Cheers*. But once the Zone has slept with Mrs Bell there is, apart from the inevitable recriminations and an insultingly contrived bomb scare, no plot. It's as if Newell is scared of lingering on the nerdish niceties of air traffic control, which in fact are the most intriguing aspect of the film. Most people fly, after all, and most want to land in one piece. True, air traffic controllers are not astronauts, and there are limits to the intrinsic glamour of a crew of tense arithmeticians in a darkened bunker. This is why, as *Pushing Tin* unfolds, one often wishes one of the swaggering maestros of action were doing the unfolding.

"There's an aluminium shower in that guy's future," Falzone says of Bell, meaning he's a loose cannon who could cause a mid-air collision. So where's the collision? Or at least the fullblown near miss or, at the very least, a suicide or nervous breakdown, since we're told air traffic controllers have so many of these? If this were a Jerry (*Top Gun*) Bruckheimer film, we'd have all three, and a villain trying to mess with the radar to boot. Instead we end up with not one but two controllers cartwheeling in the downdraft of a 747 in search of themselves.

Pushing Tin did not light up the box office at the weekend and *Election* fared even worse, despite some of the best reviews of any film in recent months. This mordant satire on contemporary American high school life boasts a career-making performance by Reece Witherspoon as a sickeningly ambitious know-all, and a career-saving turn by Matthew Broderick (hopeless in *Godzilla* last year) as her well-meaning teacher. It was not in the weekend's Top Ten films — possibly because it leaves an unintentionally bleak impression in the wake of the Columbine school shootings. Then again, *The Matrix* is one of the films accused of inspiring the school gunmen, and in its fourth week it's back at No 1.



John Cusack as Nick "the Zone" Falzone, air traffic controller *par excellence* and hero of Mike Newell's unsatisfying examination of the world of radar and near misses, *Pushing Tin*

US WEEKEND BOX-OFFICE TAKINGS AND ANALYSIS

		Film	Takings
1	(2)	**The Matrix** (Warner Bros)	$12.9m/$99m
2	(1)	**Life** (Universal)	$11.6m/$20.4m
3	(3)	**Never Been Kissed** (Twentieth Century Fox)	$6.2m/$22.9m
4	(-)	**Pushing Tin** (Twentieth Century Fox)	$3.6m/—
5	(4)	**Analyze This** (Warner Bros)	$3.2m/$91.1m
6	(-)	**Lost & Found** (Warner Bros)	$3.1m/—
7	(5)	**10 Things I Hate About You** (Touchstone)	$2.8m/$25.1m
8	(6)	**The Out-of-Towners** (Paramount)	$2m/$20.5m
9	(7)	**Go** (Columbia)	$2m/$9.4m
10	(8)	**Forces of Nature** (DreamWorks)	$1.7m/$45.8m

● *First amount is estimated weekend takings, April 23-25. Second amount is total takings to April 19. Figure in brackets indicates last week's position*

● **Bullish folk at Warner Bros** are predicting that *The Matrix* will end up with around $160 million in American box-office takings. The cyberspace thriller with Keanu Reeves returned to the top of the table at the weekend, ousting Eddie Murphy's prison drama *Life* after just one week.

Where gran left off

CONCERTS



The pernickety might question the inclusion of world premieres in the BBC's *Endless Parade* series dedicated to "Classics of British Music since 1945". Yet here on Saturday was *The Sultan's Turret*, a Post-Modernist bon-bon from David Bedford, lined up against the heavy brigade: Tippett, Britten, Walton.

Classic or not, Bedford's BBC commission proved the perfect concert opener. The conductor Nicholas Cleobury strode to the rostrum. To a background drone from the lower strings, the BBC Symphony Orchestra's violins sprang up with arpeggios. The notes fragmented with tinkling percussion and woodwind bird pecks: then the brass threw a fit. The pattern was repeated once, twice, thrice, the texture steadily filling out.

So what was this, a routine flexing of Minimalist muscles? More than that. Sunlight was hitting the Sultan's turret, as described in the *Rubaiyat* of Omar Khayyam and set to music by Bedford's grandmother Liza Lehmann in her song cycle *In a Persian Garden* (a big hit with late Victorians). The arpeggios were lifted from that source, though successive elements in this rhapsody for the millennium's dawn came from Bedford's more recent past. Aside from Minimalism, 1970s symphonic rock wafted up, as did New Romanticism. It was all very pleasant and toe-tapping, certainly more than the new millennium promises to be.

Britain's musical establishment then took over. If any of Tippett's works is an "endless parade", it must be the Triple Concerto of 1978-79. Strands of knotty string lyricism, brass chunterings and the becalmed shimmerings inspired by gamelans merge and separate into infinity. Pools of boredom result. So do problems of balance. Radio listeners might have had the best of it: on stage, Paul Watkins's impassioned cello edged out his colleagues in the Enesco Trio, Elizabeth Layton (violin) and Jane Atkins (viola).

Still, there are moments in the Tippett beautiful enough to stop the heart, as there are in Britten's dramatic cantata *Phaedra*, his last vocal work, compact and urgent. "Fool, I love you!" sang the mezzo-soprano Louise Winter, swaying in purple. But Phaedra was the fool, falling for her stepson Hippolytus, and Winter pounced eloquently on the abrupt anguish in Britten's setting of Racine's lines.

Feelings ran higher still in Walton's Second Symphony, once neglected, now clearly seen as his punchiest postwar achievement. Here Cleobury and the BBC SO were at their best — rhythms crisp, tension firm, lyric stretches steeped in melancholy. True, the finale still collapsed at the end, but that was more Walton's problem than theirs.

GEOFF BROWN

Out of place in Baroque world



I wince to say it, but Yo Yo Ma has his ups and downs. He is both an aristocrat of the cello and its irrepressible *enfant terrible*. It is to his eternal credit that he has escaped the endless round of Elgars and Dvoráks that make up the career of most world-class cellists, to explore other traditions: his yo-yola, his forays into the film world and the Baroque cello. But this latter enterprise has not always been a success.

There is more to playing a gut-strung cello with a Baroque bow than getting the equipment right. Cellists like Anner Byslmer and Pieter Wispelwey have spent years perfecting the art, while Steven Isserlis, brought up on gut strings, has an instinct for tone production that still eludes Ma.

His chief problem lies in his inability to let the sound ring free, the very essence of this playing style. The aptly named Margaret Faultless, leader of Amsterdam Baroque, and its principal cellist Jonathan Manson, showed him up all too clearly in an arrangement of *Erbame dich*. His tight vibrato, squeezed sound and wayward intonation contrasted starkly with the open glow of their tone and wonderful fluidity of line. A tendency to play sharp, particularly in an embarrassing *Air on a G-string*, suggested that he finds the lower Baroque pitch a problem.

Performance aside, Koopman's chorale arrangements were ill-conceived: a high cello sound cannot project through the orchestral texture as the voice or a non-string instrument can. One felt that we were watching the equivalent of Ma humming along to a tune in the bath: his enjoyment palpable, but the solemn chorales diminished.

The Boccherini Concerto in G came as a relief: intonation was still varied, but at least we were hearing a cellist in music scored to make him shine. Ma lent his animal spirits to Boccherini's buoyant invention, and there were glimpses of what he might do were he to tame this cello, particularly in a beautifully limpid descending scale at the end of the Adagio and some dazzling passagework in the finale. But an encore movement was, again, excruciating despite the enthusiasm of an audience of fans, some of whom walked out after the concerto.

They missed an enchanting and witty performance of Mozart's Symphony No 29 from the Amsterdam Baroque, rare visitors to London, and the real stars of the night. Ton Koopman's fiery energy also made Rameau's *Dardanus* orchestral suite crackle. The explosive "bruits de guerre" sizzled, while the comical Tambourin was accompanied by two bows clattering on the bass strings. The soft, true note of a wooden flute calling into the silence in the Chaconne, and the beguiling violin solo which closes it, were high points.

HELEN WALLACE

BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best classical music available on CD, presented in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

VIVALDI'S GLORIA
Reviewed by Lucie Skeaping

For those taking in Venice on the Grand Tour in the early 18th century, there was one part of the itinerary that simply could not be missed — a visit to the Ospedale della Pieta, one of the city's four institutions for orphaned, illegitimate or abandoned girls. Every Sunday and Feast Day its great doors would be thrown open to the public for concerts given by the inmates — and Vivaldi wrote this grand-scale setting of part of the Catholic Mass for them. These days, the work is so popular it has almost become his "Fifth Season".

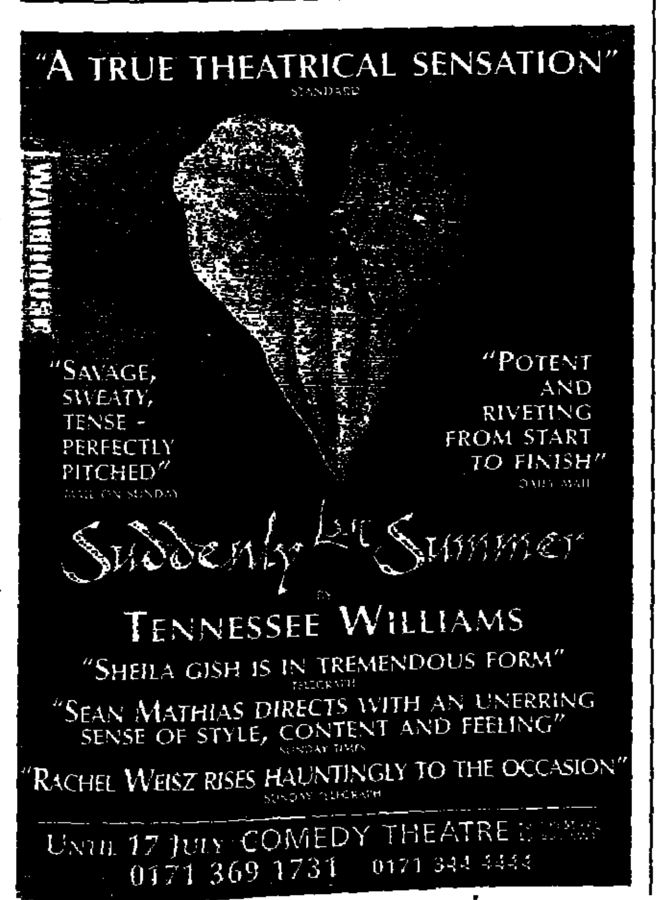
Collegium Musicum 90 under Richard Hickox has bagged two of the best sopranos for this sort of thing — Emma Kirkby and Tessa Bonner, whose close-harmony cooing in the duet *Laudamus te* is quite delicious. The choruses are bright and appealing, although the string playing sometimes felt a little routine. I preferred The Sixteen's performance overall — lots of contrast, beautifully phrased and some thoughtful continuo accompaniments — and their alto soloist is wonderfully unplummy. I enjoyed Nikolaus Harnoncourt's Concentus Musicus Wien with the Arnold Schoenberg Choir too, particularly their energetic opening *Gloria* and the beautifully played reedy oboe solo in the *Domine deus*.

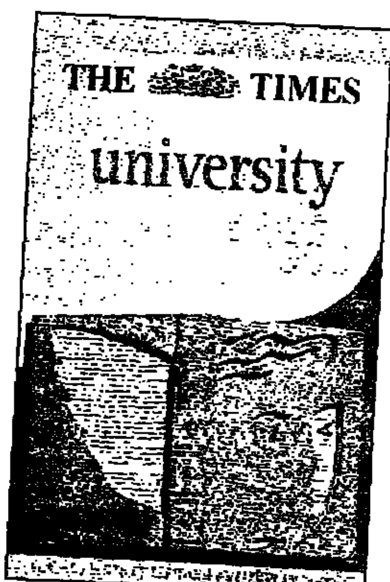
If you like your Vivaldi big and buxom you could go for the New Philharmonia Chorus and Orchestra, under Riccardo Muti, with the full-bodied operatic voices of Teresa Berganza and Lucia Valentini-Terrani, although the balance at times makes the chorus sound strangely far away. The Choir of King's College Cambridge, under David Willcocks, also gives a moving and confident performance. Mind you, appealing though they are, there is a certain irony in using boys' voices in this work, one of the few examples of sacred Baroque music written specially for girls.

With this in mind my favourite performance, then, is the one given by the **Taverner Choir and Players**, directed by **Andrew Parrott** (Virgin Classics VC 7 59326-2 CD, only available through EMI's Special Import Service £15.99). They daringly dispense with male voices altogether, simply singing the tenor and bass parts up the octave, as might well have been done in Vivaldi's time.

The effect is quite startling. Warm, sensitive and full of spirit, they really do sound like "a choir of angels" — very exciting and very Vivaldi.

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Next Sat on Radio 3 (11am): Dvorák's Ninth Symphony





■ THEATRE

Aphra Behn staged . . .

■ OPERA

. . . and Lorca sung

Oroonoko flows again

THEATRE: Jeremy Kingston meets the writer who has adapted Aphra Behn's 17th-century novel for the RSC

Time was when voices of discontent were raised whenever black actors were given leading roles in productions of Shakespeare (*Othello* excepted) or other Jacobean or Restoration dramatists. Pedants (and I was one) pointed out that Macbeth's court was all white, and that if Prospero was white and Miranda black some questions should have been asked of Mrs Prospero. Oh, big joke.

The pedants were ignored. Black actors played ever more demanding roles, and in the larger outfits, the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National, they remained with the company for months or years at a time. The importance of this is now obvious. While valuable work is done by all-black companies, actors who spend their working lives in them forfeit the experience of working on the classics with resident teachers and older actors and thus miss the chance of observing the styles, the tricks, the disciplines and all the rest of the procedures that go by the name of "theatrical tradition".

It is because the RSC has been at the forefront of what is awkwardly called colour-blind casting that from tomorrow it is able to stage a new version of Aphra Behn's novel *Oroonoko* in Stratford. Published in 1688, the year before Behn's death at the age of about 48 (most events in her early life are far from certain), the book tells of a West African prince sold into slavery and transported to Surinam, at that time ruled by the English. Here his noble character impresses all who encounter him, including Behn herself, who follows the custom of novelists of the time in claiming that hers is an eyewitness account. After sundry adventures he leads a slave revolt, is captured by trickery and killed.

> ‘Aphra Behn's book provides the earliest popular account of the slave trade’

The book is an astonishing work for its period, holding up both the native Americans and the African slaves to admiration, exposing Christian hypocrisy and providing the earliest popular account of the slave trade.

A stage adaptation by her friend Thomas Southerne followed soon after her death, and a better one by David Garrick 50 years later, in both of which the black roles were of course taken by white actors.

These versions dealt only with Oroonoko's life in Surinam and ignored the account he gives of his previous life in a part of Africa that Behn calls Coromantien. So when the RSC director Greg Doran pointed out that the company now had a body of black actors with the ability to present a more authentic production, the decision was also made to restore these unused passages from the original text. The writer commissioned to make the new adaptation was the Nigerian-born playwright and novelist, Biyi Bandele.

We meet backstage at the Barbican. He has lived in Britain for much of the 1990s, having arrived here from Lagos with a British Council grant and the play *Marching For Fausa* that would later be produced at the Royal Court. His adaptation of Chinua Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart* has just been revived at Manchester's Library Theatre; he is working on a script for the performance arts company Told By An Idiot; Picador is publishing *The Street*, his latest novel; and *Oroonoko* is in rehearsal. Astonishingly, he is looking entirely calm.

"I'd not read the book before and I was impressed by the sheer human vision that this woman had. At no point is she patronising about Oroonoko. But it took me a long time to find the stage language for it. Southerne managed to turn it into something like a Restoration comedy. David Garrick went to the other extreme and became very earnest. Then one morning I woke up and knew I had to do it in poetry."

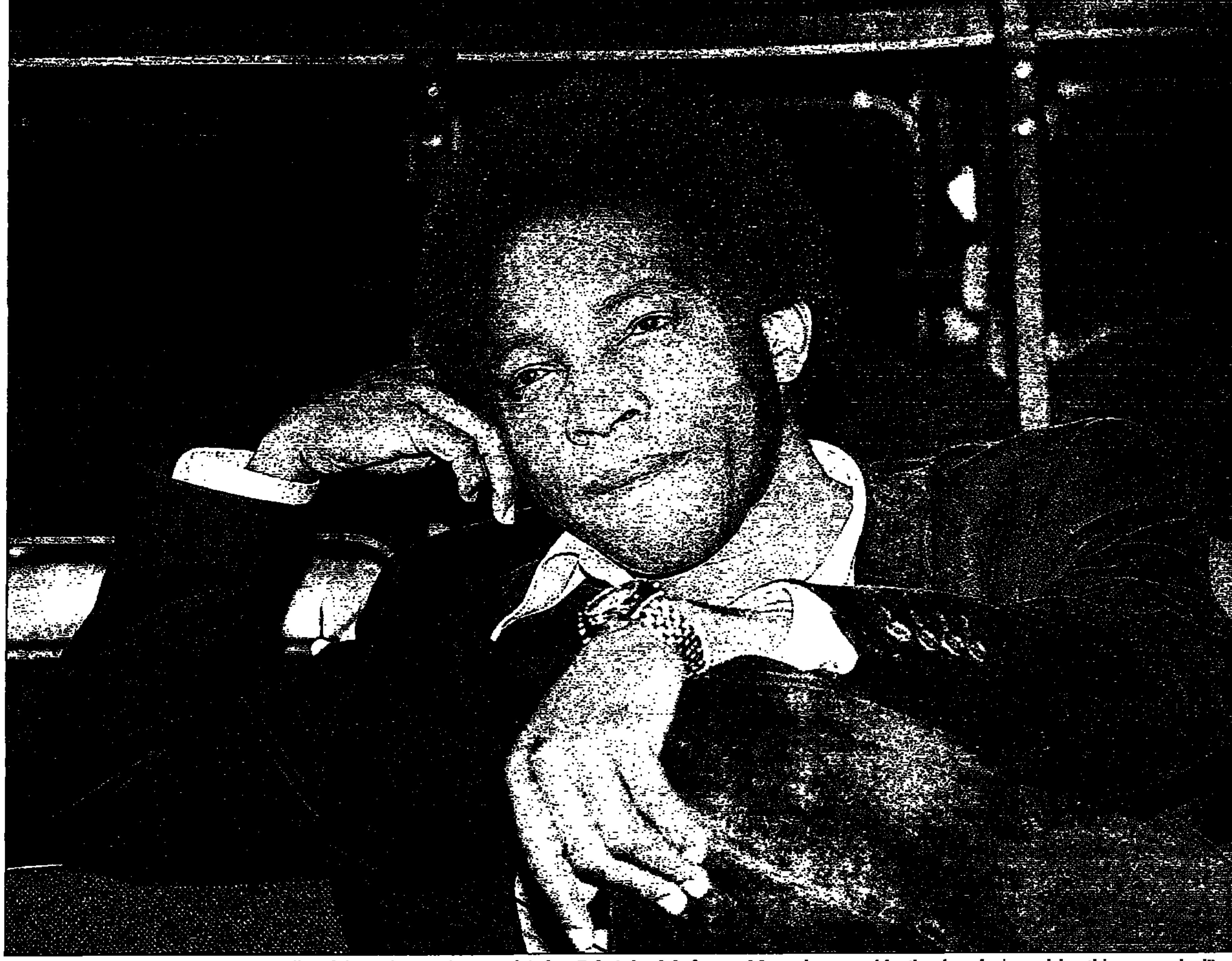
His solution was bound up with the decision to resite the African half of the play in Yorubaland (Bandele is a Yoruba). "I think Aphra Behn's Coromantien, which is in modern Ghana, is purely notional because all the characters' names are recognisably Yoruba. I have invented almost everything that is said, though I have been faithful to the plot of her story. But I wrote it in poetry because I imagined the conversations happening in Yoruba, a highly rhetorical language. I felt that the best way to capture the poetry when translating it into English was to keep it as poetry.

"Nobody knows how Aphra Behn got hold of the story, but even if it had an historical reality it's more interesting to look at it as mythology. Because then it becomes clearer. Myths are more interesting than history because where history is prose, myth is poetry, and poetry sometimes illuminates with very simple images. You have a kind of distillation of reality."

And so at the Other Place this week all the characters, black and white, prince, slave and plantation owner, will speak a heightened form of English. Behn herself wrote poetry. Biyi Bandele and the RSC are allowing her humane, poetic voice a hearing in the theatre once again.

● Oroonoko *opens at the Other Place, Stratford (01789 295623) tomorrow*

RICHARD LEA-HAIR



Nigerian-born playwright and novelist Biyi Bandele: "I'd not read Aphra Behn's book before and I was impressed by the sheer human vision this woman had"

Dance to this Spandau ballet

The Cuckoo and the Nightingale
Hampstead

It took the American playwright Don Hood 12 years to research his new play about the relationship between Rudolf Hess and his guard through his last two decades in Spandau Prison. They were years well spent.

Receiving its world premiere at the New End Theatre, this is a sparely written, tautly constructed and quietly devastating piece. Hess was the deputy Führer of Germany until 1941, when he inadvertently bailed out of the war after his secret mission to broker a peace deal with British appeasers was disowned by Hitler. He was subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment at Nuremberg. For two decades until his death, apparently by suicide, in 1987, this increasingly frail old ogre was notoriously Spandau's only inmate.

On the back of these much-exhumed bones, Hood fleshes out a complex and disquieting portrait of a deluded but compelling man. With almost no contact with the outside world, Hood's defiantly unrepentant Hess dreams of escaping to lead a Fourth Reich. He goose-steps. He salutes. He addresses his beloved Hitler.

He should be wholly unpitiable, but Hood issues us with a challenge: is it possible to sympathise with someone who is beyond redemption? The answer — all the more arresting because so reluctantly arrived at — is yes. It is not just that Hood does not shrink from portraying Hess's penetrating intellect and perverted charm. It is that you have to admire his strength of spirit. At the start, he cleaves, futilely enough, to his sense of self-importance by playing non-stop mind-games on his captors. But when his put-on paranoia, madness and illness become the real thing, and when he gives up the fight, it is perversely moving.

Supporting this portrait is Hess's American guard Captain David Morgan, himself destined to remain at Spandau until Hess dies. Much of the play dramatises their first encounters in 1966. Prisoner and guard circle each other; Hess invariably prevails. Later, the years breed an uneasy equality. Nigel D. Hoyle is very good as Morgan, but Leonard Preston gives a quite electrifying performance as Hess. Its only faults are a snarling, spitting caricature of Hitler and the physical limitations of this tiny space. Otherwise, this is acted, staged and scripted with uncommon intelligence.

NIGEL CLIFF

Lorca takes flight

OPERA

The Nightingale's to Blame
Grand, Leeds

Simon Holt's first opera, premiered last November at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, has now reached Opera North who co-commissioned it: and, in the framework of a proscenium theatre, this *Nightingale* has found a little more room to spread its wings.

This is Holt's act of homage to his beloved Lorca, in the poet's centenary year. Fashioned from *The Love of Don Perlimplin for Belisa in the Garden*, it is a true *favola in musica*, a fable of the elderly husband who has to learn about the delights of the body, while his new and voluptuous young wife must find the soul.

Just as Lorca's aphoristic play lives by parody — of character, of honour, of love — so Holt's score seems to be parodying almost every convention of Modernist musical language, even opera itself. And the extreme leaps and wild melismas of the vocal writing, close tuned to the pungent palette of the 17 instrumentalists, also seems to me a canny re-creation in sound of Lorca's verbal fusion of the lyrical and the grotesque. Perhaps the piece is working more cogently as drama now that it is run in: for I find myself liking it better than Rodney Milnes did at the Huddersfield premiere.

Certainly the music's slow uniformity of pace can be trying at times. It is not insignificant that Holt's *tours de force* occur in the moments of stasis: the tableau of the Don singing alone at night; the tiny instrumental entr'actes; the elfin dance of the "Duende" spirits (Thóra Einarsdóttir and Amanda Boyd making welcome Opera North debuts). But even this sense of music struggling through time seemed to me expressive of the frustration and the impotence felt by each character.

Against Neil Irish's exquisitely lit sets — architectural cardboard cut-outs of Lorca line-drawings, weeping moon and all — Donald Maxwell as the Don droops and stutters through his fierce lines. Patricia Rozario exercises the entire range of her soprano in the yearning sensuality of her florid writing: Fiona Kimm scolds eloquently as the servant Marcolfa: and Frances McCafferty enjoys the rattle of her rapid, nagging repetitions. Miraculously, scarcely a word is lost. Martin Duncan's deft production moves on to York, with Richard Farnes conducting with no less legerdemain.

HILARY FINCH

Spanish lessons in life

Domingo in Zarzuela
Barbican

Placido Domingo set out on Sunday to prove, with a handful of Spanish colleagues and the Covent Garden orchestra, that zarzuela is not just a secret of Iberia. His parents both specialised in this form of operetta, so in part it was an act of remembrance of the songs they taught him. Only once did he have recourse to a score.

Zarzuela is often crudely referred to as Spain's answer to Gilbert and Sullivan. Domingo soon put the lie to that. The arias and duets chosen were mainly meaty slices of spurned or unrequited love, with the influence of Cilea and Mascagni audible just across the Mediterranean. Only one item, by Suotullo and Carbonell, suggested the kind of music Lehár was composing in Vienna in the 1920s, when the zarzuela was at its height.

Everything came easily to Domingo, some might argue too easily. He was in burnished voice, with the baritonal qualities which have been there since the earliest days on full display. Here was Cavaradossi rekindled, not Nanki-Poo, as he prowled the Barbican stage. All of which, Domingo made clear, showed that some of us in Central London knew roughly as much about zarzuela as they do of G & S in Plazatoro.

He had an outstanding partner in Ainhoa Arteta, a soprano who has been making a considerable name for herself in America. She has the haughty stance of a flamenco dancer and is not averse to a swing of the hips. The voice has a shimmering top to it and plenty of weight in the middle: a natural Musetta, a role she is shortly to sing at the Met. She started impressively with an aria by Guridi, and never looked back. Covent Garden, it is to be hoped, had its contracts at the stage door.

The mezzo, Cecilia Diaz, also making a company debut, took longer to warm up. She improved hugely as the evening moved on, using the smoky tones of the best Spanish mezzos in a soulful number by Chapi declaring eternal love. Miguel Roa was the dapper, energetic conductor. The ROH orchestra was on its mettle in generally unfamiliar music and Rosa egged them on their way, notably in three flashy overtures which showed that the zarzuela composers knew how to get their audience excited before the curtain went up. A generous helping of encores rounded off an exotic evening.

JOHN HIGGINS

LAW

THE WOOLF REFORMS

The revolution in litigation starts here

Fast-track customer-friendly justice is upon us, says Lord Woolf. Interview by Frances Gibb

A revolution takes place in the civil justice system this week. Out goes our traditional costly drawn-out system of litigation with lawyers indulging in trial by combat — a system epitomised in *Bleak House's* Jarndyce v Jarndyce. In comes a speedy, cost-sensitive system in which judges — not lawyers — set the pace of litigation and people are encouraged with financial incentives to settle before trial.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls and architect of the reforms, accepts that it may mean a rougher, readier justice, but for many more people. "For the simpler cases not involving large sums of money it will be a more robust system of justice," he says. "It's all right having a Rolls-Royce, but it is worth using only for journeys for which it's suitable. Many cases need a bike."

For the consumer, the reforms should mean certainty about what they are in for if they pursue or defend a claim. Iain Goldrein, QC, barrister and visiting professor at Nottingham Law School, told a seminar last week held by Richards Butler, the law firm, that the present system is like asking the cost of a train ticket from Edinburgh to King's Cross. "The woman behind the counter will say: 'I haven't the slightest idea.' You will reply: 'Why not, I am only going to King's Cross?' And she will say: 'Well, that's what you say, but we're not necessarily going to King's Cross, we might be going to Inverness, Dundee ... we'd probably end up in Exeter ... we might never arrive!'

"Quite extraordinary that we have run this system for so long without question."

> 'It really is the end of the old expensive, unequal system'

As well as uncertainty, there can be disproportionate cost. Roger Parker, Richards Butler's head of litigation, cites a case which came to court four years after proceedings were issued. A sum of £3 million was at stake. After a 12-week trial, the case was settled, with costs of £2 million each. Mr Parker says: "Woolf will help to create a climate where you don't go into those cases unless you've tried to explore whether there's a way out." Andrew Hearne, head of litigation at Titmuss Sainer Dechert, adds that people will not be allowed to run up huge costs over small sums. "The concept of proportionality is revolutionary and very exciting: it allows the court to treat each case as it thinks fit."

From this week, judges become trial managers, setting timetables for cases and imposing cost penalties for delay. They can summarily dismiss weak claims and order the parties to try mediation. Woe betide a lawyer, Mr Hearne says, who sits back and waits for his next deadline. He or she will face hefty costs.

Lawyers are understandably nervous about what is a complete culture change. Some claim that the preparation time has been inadequate; that the changes will just shift the costs of litigation to its early stages; or that injustices will occur from excessively proactive and speedy judges. But most think that the reforms will benefit the customer. Barry Warne, of Irwin Mitchell, the Sheffield law firm, cites a case of a building society which sought to repossess a woman's home. It took the woman, Hazel Archer, ten years to defeat them and what started as a £20,000 claim against her ended with a legal bill for the society and her former lawyers, taken with the loss of the original loan, of £500,000. "Under Woolf," he says, "this case would have been settled or mediated, with huge time and cost savings."

Crucial to the reforms' success are the judges. Are they ready for their new role? They have undergone special training. But one deputy High Court judge recently told a litigator that the reforms "do not really change very much". The hope is that his view is a minority one. Lord Woolf points out that in the commercial court, judges are already leading the way, managing cases and encouraging parties to use other methods to settle disputes.

There is also concern about over-eager judges. Lawyers expect them to come down hard from the start, but Lord Woolf says they will be flexible. Their new wide powers will make them liable to scrutiny and challenge. But Lord Woolf argues that all rulings will be subject to appeal. The Access to Justice Bill will also devolve many appeals on procedural points to lower courts, speeding up the appeals process; there will be a special Court of Appeal fast track for procedural points; and the court will issue regular guidance.



ROY RILEY

Lord Woolf: "If the law gives a person a right, the law should be able to enforce that right"

Not all the reforms will be in place from day one. The computer back-up for judges, enabling them to manage cases on their laptops and with direct links with the court system, will not be there until next year at best. As a result, Lord Woolf says, the economies will not be made, and extra administrative staff have to be provided. But he is content, if not happy, that the technology should not be rushed. Secondly, the cap on legal fees chargeable in the fast track (which hears disputes of up to £15,000) will apply only to the trial itself, where a cap of £750 has been set for the three-hour hearings. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, is to consult on whether pre-trial costs should also be capped. The limited cap will bring more certainty, but it is, Lord Woolf says, "half a cake rather than the whole".

The reforms are meant to make litigation easier. "The philosophy I have adopted," Lord Woolf argues, "is that if the law gives a person a right, it is only proper that the law should be able to enforce that right." But paradoxically, the upshot should be fewer trials. With hefty penalties for those who stall or unreasonably refuse to settle, people will have to settle earlier.

"We will see many disputes sorted out without the courts being bothered," he says. "It is a huge change. It really is the end of the majestic, expensive, disproportionate unequal system we have been living with for too long."

Lawpage@the-times.co.uk

How my small claim left me with a big bill

For minor disputes to be solved without lawyers, the procedure must be made simpler

From this week it should be easier and cheaper for people to use the courts. But the Woolf reforms are also aimed at encouraging people to sort out simple disputes without using lawyers at all. The idea is that more people should use the small claims court, which will now be able to hear claims of up to £5,000. Litigants will have to represent themselves because legal aid is not normally available for such cases.

In January 1996 the limit on small claims disputes was raised from £1,000 to £3,000. It is a measure of the Government's confidence in this route to justice that the limit is being raised by a further £2,000. Doubts, however, have been raised over the scheme's effectiveness. Government research has found that while some litigants benefit, others struggle with the complexity of the law and arrive at court poorly prepared. Many have had difficulty in enforcing judgments once obtained.



DAN BINDMAN

My own recent experience with the small claims court suggests that the courts, judges and solicitors have yet to embrace the culture change needed to make the process user-friendly. In my case, I decided to bring a small claim as a litigant-in-person without a legal qualification.

My claim was for £1,200 worth of damage caused to my car by a negligent driver, who, fortunately, had insurance. The insurance company's claims handlers did not contest liability, but they made me an offer that I considered too low. I went to my local county court, which accepted my claim against the insurance company without comment, along with a fee of £80.

I looked forward to putting my case at an informal hearing before a district judge. That was my first mistake. It turned out that I should not have sued the insurance company, but the driver. This is a mere technicality, because in any case the insurer has to be sent a copy of the summons, and its solicitors take responsibility for dealing with it.

Instead of simply pointing this out to me, the solicitors served a "defence" to my claim, accusing me of being "frivolous" and of "abuse of process". They also applied to the court for the cost of drafting the defence. I needed legal advice. Acting on it, I discontinued the case and issued fresh proceedings, this time against the driver.

Surely, I thought, at the forthcoming costs hearing the judge would accept my argument that the solicitors' defence, though powerful, was pointless since I could never have succeeded in suing their client. Instead, I would argue, the solicitors should have written to tell me that I was pursuing a hopeless case. After all, having seen the details of my claim, they could have been in no doubt of what I was trying to do and, as solicitors for the insurers, they had to deal with the claim anyway. Confident that the judge would right this wrong, I rejected an offer from the solicitors to settle the costs bill for £85 and gave notice that I would defend the application in person.

That was my second mistake. By the time of the costs hearing, the solicitors' bill had inflated to £465. At the hearing, the judge had little sympathy for a misguided layperson. "Of course," the judge concluded, "the solicitors had a right to issue a defence on behalf of their client." When I protested, he said: "Litigants name the wrong defendant at their peril." Though my spirits were lifted when the judge described the solicitors' claim for 90 minutes of barrister's time as "absurd", by the end of the hearing I found myself owing the insurance company £180.88 and the merits of my claim for damages had not even been heard.

Still reeling from this unhappy experience, I suggest three reforms consistent with the new legal climate that the Woolf reforms seek to engender. First, claims issued by litigants-in-person should be assessed for technical accuracy when they are deposited with court officials. Secondly, solicitors should be obliged to consider the interests of a litigant-in-person before seeking shelter behind technicalities and clocking up fee-earner time. Thirdly, judges should show greater imagination in protecting the interests of litigants-in-person. As Lord Woolf said: "The court has got to take on responsibility, clearly as part of its duties, to lend help to the litigant who needs it."

Legal DIARY

WAR finally broke out this week between the Lord Chancellor and the Law Society over legal aid cuts after months of niceties. With MPs due this week to debate the Access to Justice Bill, Lord Irvine of Lairg erupted over the society's advertising campaign — to highlight vulnerable groups it says will be hit by the cuts.

Yesterday the society hit back. Lord Irvine was wrong, it said, to accuse it of "not telling the truth". The society called for guarantees in the Bill to protect vulnerable groups. A senior Law Society official said: "We have him on the run." Lord Irvine told Radio 4 that the society would be better off improving the appalling delays in its complaints system.

☐ Ian Hislop, the Editor of *Private Eye*, will be stepping into the lion's den later this year. He is to appear at the Law Society's annual conference in Paris this October. Not known for his love of lawyers, Mr Hislop has been persuaded by the conference's organiser, Mark Stephens of Stephens Innocent, to appear with Geoffrey Robertson, QC, and Peter Carter-Ruck in a session on media law.

☐ More than half the UK's law students (57 per cent) think their ethnic origin will affect their careers, says a survey by *Lex*, the law students' magazine. Thirty-seven per cent also think that women are discriminated against in law firms and 58 per cent believe that is also true of the Bar.

Catrin Griffiths, the Editor of *Lex*, says: "This shows that the profession has a long way to go before it shakes off its reactionary, negative image. Otherwise it will continue to lose first-rate law students to other careers, such as the City."

☐ It is Sir Richard Scott, Lord Woolf's colleague, who has to make the civil justice reforms work. His comments are blunt: on the lack of computer technology, he says in this month's *Counsel* magazine that it is a "major regret" that the judges won't have the full IT they need. But judges, he acknowledges, are ready for the change. As for everyone else, he ventures: "I trust there are none still wandering around the saddling enclosure."

☐ Top moves: John Higham, QC, a leading insolvency silk, is joining the City law firm Stephenson Harwood to develop its in-house advocacy services. And Michael Napier, senior partner of Irwin Mitchell, is to stand again for office at the Law Society. He will go for deputy vice-president after a narrow defeat last year in the fight for President.

☐ No surprise that the Chancery judges are first off the mark with a new guide on the Woolf rules and how to manage cases, edited by Mrs Justice Arden. From district registries and the Chancery Division website: www.courtservice. gov.uk/highhome.htm

☐ The abstract artist Kandinsky, some of whose works are on show at the Royal Academy until July 4, was also a lawyer-academic specialising in employment law. But after seeing an Impressionist exhibition, he abandoned law to train as an artist.

Law kept its hold on him, however, and he always painted in a suit.

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Vivienne Duffy with her children receiving her late husband Peter's Lawyer of the Year award from the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, at 11 Downing Street

Crusader for human rights

Peter Duffy has finally won the kind of recognition he so often sought for others, says **Frances Gibb**

TIMES/JUSTICE LAW AWARDS

Peter Duffy, QC, who died of cancer last month at the age of 44, never sought recognition for himself; he was more concerned about winning it for others. So it is not surprising that, in the recent batch of awards for human rights work, it was he who had nominated the winners. The full recognition he so much deserved was finally forthcoming when — on the strength of a host of nominations — he was named last week as *The Times*/Justice Lawyer of the Year.

Anne Owers, the director of Justice, who presented the award to Duffy's wife Vivienne, and daughters Clare, Helen and Sarah at a reception at 11 Downing Street, said his death was a huge loss to the UK legal community. Most of his cases were milestones in human rights: Gypsies, asylum-seekers, gay rights, Diane Blood and the Pinochet appeal in which he appeared for Amnesty International. He died before judgment was given.

Ms Owers paid tribute to Mr Duffy's talent for translating dry legal instructions into an argument that captured the inherent unfairness in a case and which could appeal to a judge's sense of injustice; for his support of young lawyers, and "abiding dislike" of discrimination against minorities and the vulnerable. "Tragically, he will not be there to argue a case on day one of the Human Rights Act," she said.

The judging panel — which included Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls; Robert Ayling, the chairman of British Airways; the MP Chris Mullin; and Ms Owers — also decided that a special award should go to another lawyer, **Rosemary Nelson**, who was murdered in Belfast in March.

In nominating her, the Belfast-based Committee on the Administration of Justice stated that she represented the "very best of the legal profession, defending her clients, regardless of their alleged crimes and to the very best of her ability". That commitment had led directly to her murder, the nomination said. "It would have been safer to stick to non-controversial cases and to pick and choose who came to her for help," it added, "but that was not Nelson's concept of justice."

A United Nations principle states that lawyers should not be identified with their clients or their clients' causes as a result of discharging their functions. The committee said: "Rosemary Nelson paid the highest possible price when this principle was disregarded; lawyers must honour her memory."

The Young Lawyer of the Year award went jointly to **Saul Lehrfreund** and **Parvais Jabbar**, who have worked at Simons Muirhead & Burton for many years on death row cases. Edward Fitzgerald, QC, Lawyer of the Year in 1998, singled out in his nomination "their passion and commitment to those facing execution, their humanity in dealing with their clients, their effectiveness in saving lives and extending the rights of those on death row".

The pair worked full-time on the death row cases, often unpaid and at the expense of their own careers as conventional lawyers, he said. "Young though they are, they handle a caseload of some 80 people and handle their clients' cases before the Privy Council, international human rights bodies and often at an appellate level in domestic jurisdictions in the Caribbean."

Mr Fitzgerald added that despite working against the clock and with the ever-present threat of execution hanging over their clients, they were always positive, inspiring all barristers they briefed. They had impressive results, winning many appeals and frequently saving lives, he said.

The award for the organisation that had done the most to widen access to justice went to the **Environmental Law Foundation**. It has helped community groups and individuals in more than 800 cases, using a network of lawyers working largely for free.

The foundation, chaired by Martin Polden and run by Maria Adebowale, is the only national charity providing local sources of expertise on the environment. It plans to set up a chain of "surgeries" throughout the country.

Dan Brennan, QC, Chairman of the Bar Council, said: "Many of the individuals and groups the foundation has worked with are disadvantaged economically and socially, from rural and urban areas. They have few sources of information. They cannot afford expensive specialist help." The awards, in their second year, were presented by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, who praised the work of Justice as the "legal conscience of the nation".

Firms make a hasty retreat from war zone

Lawyers are casualties of the Balkans crisis. **Edward Fennell** reports

Western lawyers do not come high on the list of casualties of the Nato war in Yugoslavia — but in a business sense they are in there somewhere. The law firm with the most to lose is probably the City solicitors Denton Hall. Mark Harrison, a former Eversheds lawyer, has been in Belgrade working for the Serbian and Macedonian Governments on privatisation and regulation. Will Hulbert, a spokesman for the firm, said this week that such work had been "put on hold": Mr Harrison has left Belgrade.

Interviewed in Sofia last week, he was understandably cagey about the work he has been doing for the Serbs. Mr Hulbert said that the firm was "playing its cards close to its chest", although Elizabeth Rantzen, its business development manager, admitted that Mr Harrison and Blanche Sas (an expert on pipeline deals), of the firm's Brussels office, were "very close to the Establishment" in Belgrade.

> The war is costing millions in lost business

Denton Hall is not alone in its interest in the Balkans. In 1996, when Eversheds still employed Mr Harrison, the firm joined a trade delegation to Serbia to look for investment opportunities. Mr Harrison said at the time that he expected Eversheds to play a big part in the reconstruction process and spoke enthusiastically about the potential of Montenegro's tourism industry. Now those views look like wishful thinking. Even so, Mr Harrison persisted with his ambitions for work in Yugoslavia. Eversheds management, however, did not share his vision and he joined Denton Hall.

Eversheds, though, has not entirely abandoned interest in the area. The firm has just appointed Francis Chubb, a former army officer who has worked with Nato's forces in Bosnia, to join the offices of Georgiev Todorov & Co, the Sofia firm with which it has an exclusive relationship. According to Alan Jenkins, who masterminds the Eversheds international policy, this is a first step towards a possible office in the country. Mr Chubb and Mr Harrison may, with any luck, have the opportunity of enjoying Sofia's nightlife together. Bulgaria, like Hungary and Romania, is under EU pressure to cut fuel supply lines to Yugoslavia. As potential EU members, the "frontline states" are expected to conform to new European legislation being enacted this week.

Istvan Reczicza, a lawyer with White & Case in Budapest, said last week that Hungary's recent accession to Nato has given assurance to Western investors that they will be safe, no matter what happens over the border. White & Case is acting for the Hungarian Government over the licensing of a new mobile phone service. Mr Reczicza says: "We have been astonished by the quality and scale of the bids. BT, Orange, Telecom Italia and many other leading companies want to invest in the project and seem undeterred by developments in Yugoslavia."

So despite the war, business goes on. Michael Dark, who runs Taylor Joynson Garrett's Bucharest office, reports that one of his transactions has fallen through because of the problems on the Danube. "But aside from that, we have not been affected," he says. "Local business people, however, tell me that the war is costing Romania millions of dollars in lost business; and that is likely to create a terrible insurance mess."

Commercial/I.P. Lawyers

Bedford & Merseyside

Unilever is one of the world's largest and most successful international businesses. With more than five hundred operating companies across the globe, it aims to meet the everyday needs of people everywhere with a diverse range of consumer products. Operating in highly competitive markets, the constant innovation of new products and processes is vital to Unilever's success and this is reflected in annual expenditure on research & development in excess of £550 million.

In order to support Unilever's continued growth, two opportunities have now been created for experienced commercial / intellectual property lawyers to be based at Unilever's main UK research centres in Shambrook, Bedford and The Wirral, Merseyside.

The roles will involve negotiating, drafting and advising on a wide range of agreements. These will include:- consultancy, technology transfer, joint research, consortium, collaboration, sponsored/ contract research and confidentiality agreements.

Candidates must have a pragmatic, solutions orientated approach and will possess a level of experience that will allow them to operate autonomously. The ability to communicate clearly with technical and commercial colleagues is essential and a background in chemistry or Biosciences would be a distinct advantage. Applications are welcomed from those without a formal legal qualification who possess the required experience.

The successful candidates can look forward to excellent long term prospects in an environment where intellectual property enjoys a high profile. An attractive salary package including a fully expensed and generous benefits package is on offer. The role will involve some travel.



*For further details contact **Struan Hall** or **Helen McAtamney** at **Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN.** Tel: 0171 430 1711. E-mail: ggy@netcomuk.co.uk Fax: 0171 831 4186. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Graham Gill & Young.*



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MAY MAY MEAN MORE MONEY

FOUNDING PARTNERS - Tax, Banking and Corporate — To £500,000

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INSURANCE LITIGATOR — To £100,000

You will have ideally 4 to 8 years' experience with a dynamic personality to join this US firm in London. They lead the way in this area back home and you will be amazed at the number of high profile cases they handle. Beautiful offices and lively atmosphere with partnership prospects too. Ref: T62027

EMPLOYMENT — To £53,000

With a top notch corporate client base including a number of major financial institutions, this top 20 firm has an employment workload which is the envy of many of its competitors. The firm is now looking to add an employment specialist with between 2 and 4 years' pqe to undertake a mixture of contentious and non-contentious matters. Ref: T19786

CORPORATE — To £80,000

This magic circle firm has gone from strength to strength over the last few years and developed a very successful international network. Its corporate department is one of the truly great blue chip operations and regularly tops the league tables. Opportunities for 1-6 year qualified high calibre corporate lawyers abound. Ref: T12381

PROPERTY — To £70,000

This firm has one of the leading property reputations of any firm in London. It regularly works on the highest profile deals and now seeks a number of 2-6 year qualified commercial property lawyers. The work will be extremely diverse working with some of the leading property clients in the country. Excellent financial rewards and good partnership prospects. Ref: T15493

BANKING — To £85,000 +

This leading top twenty practice has an unparalleled reputation in the corporate sphere and is seeking to grow its banking practice along similar lines. It therefore represents an excellent opportunity for a senior assistant at one of the top five banking firms seeking a leg up to partnership in a very profitable environment. Top quality work - top quality pay. Ref: T4374

FUNDS — To £90,000

This practice has quickly risen up the rankings in the funds and financial services sphere. Acting for a range of funds and investment management companies in international work of the very highest quality. You will join a team servicing both UK and US funds houses working with highly ranked practitioners in their field. Opportunity for much responsibility, autonomy and strong partnership prospects for assistants at all levels. Ref: T30832

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS — To £75,000

An increasing volume of high quality work means this international practice needs an employee benefit/share schemes lawyer with 2+ years' pqe for the team. The future can provide a head of team role to the right person. A strong interest in this area is pre-requisite. Ref: T20355

FINANCE - CAYMAN ISLANDS — £Excellent

Why not put your company commercial/corporate finance experience to good use whilst basking in the delights of life in the Cayman Islands high levels of pay and low rates of tax? Offshore experience is not as essential as 3-5 years' high-flying corporate/commercial experience and the personality to match. Ref: T28028

PROPERTY/PROPERTY FINANCE — To £55,000

Property lawyers with an interest/expertise in property finance will certainly be interested in this top ten firm. To work in such a dynamic area in a long established City firm - what could be better? If you have 2-4 years property experience and are looking to broaden your experience this could be the one. Ref: T22423

CORPORATE — To £60,000

This fifty partner firm is clearly going places. It has an excellent corporate practice covering a wide variety of yellow book work and private M&A. If you are between 1-5 years qualified and are keen to work in a smaller environment but still do big ticket work then this could be the ideal opportunity for you. Ref: T37021

PROJECT FINANCE — To £70,000

This leading Canadian firm has an excellent project finance practice. The work is of an entirely international nature, working for blue chip organisations. If you are a project finance lawyer with 2-3 years post qualification experience you must consider this opportunity. You get a big firm name, a small entrepreneurial environment and a top salary. Ref: T62285

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact **Sarah David, Greg Abrahams** or **Nick Shilton** (all qualified lawyers) on **0171 405 6062** (0181 392 0723 or 0171 435 4663 evenings/weekends) or write to them at **QD Legal.**

email: davidsc@qdgroup.co.uk
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IN-HOUSE

Legal adviser — *Monaco*

Solicitor with up to 3 years' experience to join the legal department of the services company of an international group whose main business is refining and marketing oil. You should have a good commercial background and a high level of ambition and drive, as well as initiative and the ability to work both individually and in a team environment. Some experience of intellectual property would be a distinct advantage. A sense of humour is essential and knowledge of another European language, in particular Italian, would be ideal.

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LONDON / OVERSEAS

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Employment — *City*

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THE POSITION

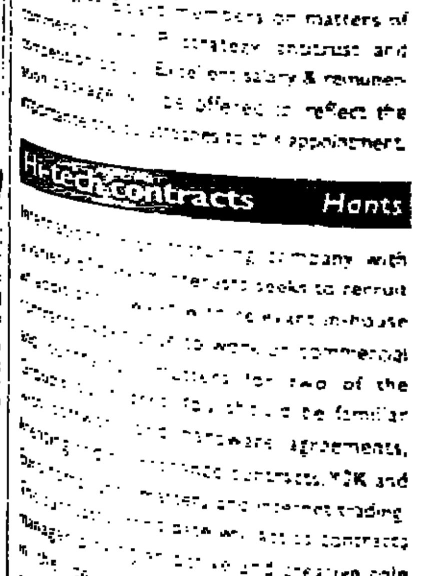
- Responsible for the provision of professional legal advice concerning commercial, compliance and tax issues relating to UK and international share schemes.
- Support, as well as lead on, a wide range of projects and manage client relationships. Provide practical, leading edge share scheme advice and solutions to reflect the client's needs and business.
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QUALIFICATIONS

- Candidates will be qualified lawyers with 3-8 years post-qualification experience from either a professional or consultancy background.
- Ideally, experience of evaluating and advising on a wide range of share scheme matters. It would also be advantageous if candidates have experience of either pensions or employment law.
- Commercially mature with highly developed communication and interpersonal skills.
- A team player with the ability to work on, and lead, a range of projects. Preferably a strong client focus with the maturity to comfortably relate to senior level contacts, such as Board Directors and Remuneration Committees.

This is an excellent opportunity for an ambitious executive in this field keen to significantly enhance their career development. Interested candidates should write, enclosing full career and current salary details to the advising consultants, Sharon Glenaway or Angela de Marco, quoting reference 2631 at Questor International, 3 Burlington Gardens, London W1X 1LE. Telephone 0171 292 8300, fax 0171 287 5457. e-mail: claire@questorint.com









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LONDON – PARTNERS & SENIOR ASSOCIATES



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To £200,000
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To £200,000
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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IN-HOUSE

Snr commercial lawyer — *SE*

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e-mail: industry@chambersrecruitment.co.uk

LONDON / OVERSEAS

EU prof support — *City*

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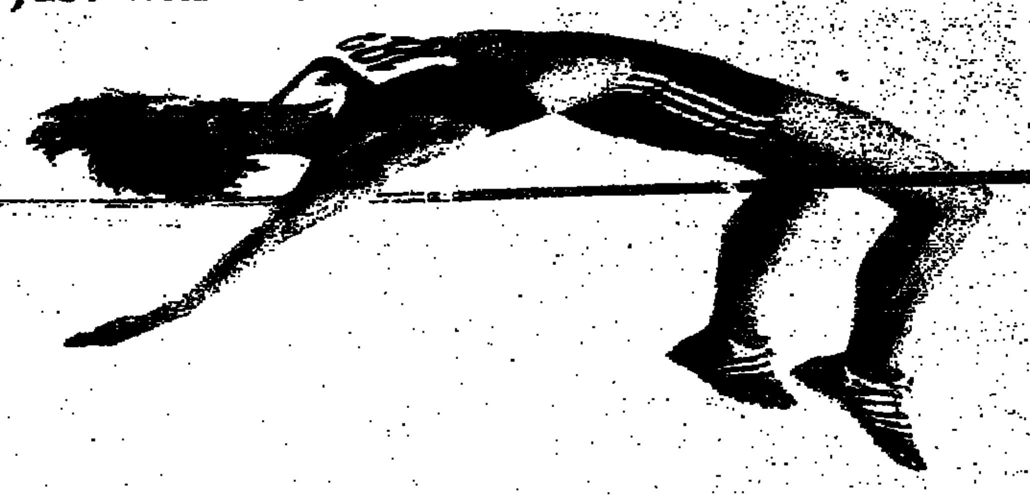
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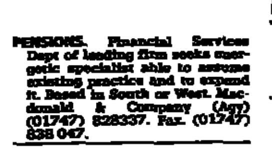
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Further details for the above posts from the Personnel Department, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, AL10 9AB or tel: 01707 284802 (24 hour voicemail), quoting the relevant reference.
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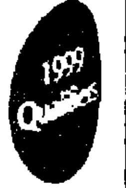
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RACING: SUNSPANGLED SHARES FAVOURITISM AFTER GODOLPHIN HOPE IS RULED OUT

Etizaaz joins classic absentees

By Chris McGrath

THE perils of ante-post betting have been laboured to the point of cruelty in the Sagitta 1,000 Guineas, where a setback to Etizaaz is just the latest in a long sequence of misfortunes to thwart leading fancies for Sunday's classic. These have ranged from the tragedy that claimed Bint Allayl to the lesser hitches that have ruled out Bionic, Blue Cloud and now Etizaaz.

Ladbrokes have Sunspangled sharing 4-1 favouritism with Moiava, the French filly who was herself forced to miss an intended trial after a training reverse. In common with Orpen in the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas, Sunspangled has developed ominous momentum in the market since they both impressed Aidan O'Brien, their trainer, on the Ballydoyle gallops last Friday.

The scratching of Etizaaz represents a dispiriting start to perhaps the most exciting week yet in the Godolphin adventure. Thankfully, the 30 horses who arrived in Newmarket from Dubai yesterday enjoyed a smooth flight, though they will be given a day to settle in before stretching their legs on the Heath. Only then will running plans be confirmed for the Guineas meeting.

Sheikh Mohammed and his team will, naturally enough, be at Churchill Downs on Saturday, when Worldly Manner and Aljabr contest the Kentucky Derby. Do not be surprised, however, if he makes it back to Newmarket in time for the 1,000 Guineas.

Fairy Queen, Pescara and Calando retained the opportunity to stand in for Etizaaz, while in the previous day's 2,000 Guineas, Godolphin's main hope, Island Sands, is joined by Easaar and Rhythm Band among 22 acceptors.

There were no less than 27 for the fillies' race and this year's switch to the July Course (during reconstruction on the Rowley Mile) could well introduce a rogue factor in the shape of the draw. The runners seem likely to spread across the track and could easily break into two groups; there were certainly races at the Craven Meeting where the far rail conferred an advantage.

Those who do consider the 2,000 Guineas rather anonymous this year, should note that Sir Mark Prescott hopes to run Triple Dash. This Nashwan colt looked the part in two starts over six furlongs last year. He will be well served by the extra distance but Prescott is discouraged by the weather forecast. "I've always felt he needs cut, and that if we were lucky this could be the year when we get a soft-ground Guineas. But it doesn't sound like we are going to get rain," Prescott said.

"He is entitled to be there as a longshot. His mother never stopped improving with age and I've always felt this will be a four-year-old, but I've intended that he should run from last autumn, if the ground were all right and if he pleased me — and he has worked well enough to take his chance."

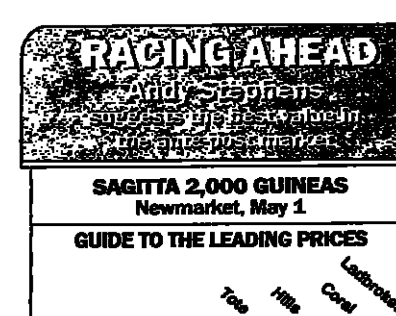
As intimated by O'Brien on Friday, Stravinsky has been withdrawn. Another loose end was tied up yesterday when Jeremy Noseda turned to Gary Carter for Desaru. But Pat Eddery, who created that vacancy by switching to Compton Admiral will partner the same trainer's Wannabe Grand in the 1,000 Guineas.

☐ Kim Bailey has recently endured more than his fair share of tribulations, both in his professional and domestic life but yesterday announced his intention, at 45, to make a fresh start. With great sadness the jumps trainer is selling Old Manor Stables and from October will be based at Preston Capes in Northamptonshire. "I have enjoyed Lambourn and would like to thank all the staff and owners who have supported me," he said. "The last two years personally have taken a very large toll and I wish to start afresh."

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Wannabe Grand and Eddery, right, will renew rivalry with Imperial Beauty in the 1,000 Guineas



SAGITTA 2,000 GUINEAS
Newmarket, May 1

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	Tote	Hills	Coral	Ladbrokes
Enrique	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-1	5-1
Orpen	[illegible]	4-1	5-1	4-1
Commander Collins	5-1	11-2	5-1	5-1
Island Sands	[illegible]	[illegible]	7-1	[illegible]
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Compton Admiral	[illegible]	[illegible]	12-1	[illegible]
Alrassaam	14-1	[illegible]	14-1	10-1
Brancaster	16-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Exeat	20-1	25-1	20-1	20-1
Saffron Walden	20-1	33-1	25-1	–
Bahamian Bandit	25-1	33-1	25-1	25-1

THE sound of bubbles being burst this spring has been almost deafening and, before the week is out, a few more will be popped because Commander Collins, Orpen, Island Sands and Auction House – all prominent in the ante-post betting – will make their seasonal reappearances in the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket on Saturday.

All four, perhaps with the exception of Commander Collins, have been the subject of glowing reports, but then so were Mujahid, Stravinsky and Killer Instinct – and look what happened to them on their respective comeback runs. The advice is to ignore the hype and instead rely on racecourse evidence. Compton Admiral is the most solid of the leading candidates after his defeat of Brancaster in the Craven Stakes. The bare form looks short of classic standard, but at least he has proven himself over a mile – something that Enrique, Orpen and Auction House have yet to do. However, BAHAMIAN BANDIT, a 33-1 chance with Hills, is the one to be interested in.

His trainer, Richard Hannon, who knows what it takes to win this race having won it three times before with Mon Fils (1973), Don't Forget Me (1987) and Tirol (1990), never hurries his youngsters so it was highly encouraging that he should be capable of trouncing a big field at Lingfield on his second and final start as a two-year-old. He showed a smart turn of foot that day and reproduced it on his comeback at the Craven meeting when, despite being far from fully wound up, he won a minor event over seven furlongs in decisive fashion.

The extra furlong he will tackle on Saturday looks well within his compass and the First Trump colt is taking no more a step up in class than such as Island Sands and Alrassaam – much shorter-priced rivals. The anticipated good going will suit him ideally and, as a considerable bonus, Olivier Peslier, arguably the world's finest big-race jockey, will be in the saddle.

Why the Derby breeds contempt for Fabre

JULIAN MUSCAT



On the level

Woe betide the racing professional who casts aspersions on the Derby, as André Fabre now discovers to his cost. Fabre's bluntness often veers towards insolence; his dismissal of British racing's showpiece event was bound to cause offence to those who have successfully revived the Derby as a top sporting spectacle.

Mind you, Fabre, the perennial champion trainer in France, will care not a jot about the backlash. This is a man whose aloofness has offended many — not least French racing officials, with whom he is perpetually in conflict. He can be contemptuous in the extreme, and he remains the only man in racing to have truly confronted Sheikh Mohammed. That he did so over the future of Pennekamp, his outstanding 2,000 Guineas winner of 1995, is peculiarly relevant to the present Derby debate.

Pennekamp started a red-hot favourite for the Derby, in which he was to suffer a career-ending injury. Fabre evidently feared as much beforehand, highlighting the colt's far-from-perfect front legs as an inherent weakness. Nevertheless, the esteem in which Fabre held Pennekamp doubtless fortified him for his stand-off with the sheikh, who, in Godolphin's formative years, wanted Pennekamp to winter in Dubai after his successful juvenile season. Fabre's response was to declare that if Pennekamp left his stable, so, too, should all the others in the sheikh's ownership. The colt duly wintered in France.

Pennekamp's presence at Epsom reflected Fabre's preoccupation with the blue riband. This obsession was fired by two legacies of history: that the Derby was the world's greatest race, but more importantly, that it was the benchmark of excellence as decreed by numerous influential breeders of their time. It was Federico Tesio, a giant amongst breeders, who declared that the piece of wood denoting the winning post of the Derby was the sport's most important signpost.

A decade ago, when Fabre consented to the occasional interview, he would amplify one ambition above all others — including winning the Derby. He desperately wanted to train a horse that would impose itself as a truly outstanding stallion. At the time he felt that those twin peaks were inextricably linked; that the Derby would identify the horse who would subsequently spawn a dynasty of rare brilliance. He plainly does not think that now.

As much was evident when he bypassed the Derby with Peintre Celebre, who instead won the Prix du Jockey-Club (French Derby) and Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe two seasons back. Indeed, of the three criticisms Fabre laid at the Derby door, only one is contentious. It is a fact that the race is hard on three-year-olds. It is equally true that the Derby has not thrown up a champion sire for more than years, a disappointing detail even allowing for the export to Japan of four winners over a five-year period from 1991.



Fabre: strong views

What triggered the scorn heaped on Fabre was his third assertion: that the Derby only survives on its reputation. In this respect, condemnation of Fabre has been made out of context. He was not rubbishing the racing merit of Derby winners but their collective indifference as stallions. Hence the redundance of Epsom's recent use of International Classification ratings to illustrate that the Derby is indeed alive and kicking.

Of that there is no doubt. The Derby is still the ultimate test of a three-year-old. It may be brutal, but it has ever been thus. It is an event whose meaning is only really conferred in the moment of victory. Like the Grand National, it remains an integral part of our heritage despite its waning influence as a source of outstanding sires.

In that respect it might have been so different had Sadler's Wells, the outstanding stallion in Europe, been allowed his chance in the 1984 Derby won by Secreto. He would have gone close at Epsom: his next two starts saw him plunder the Eclipse Stakes before leading home his contemporaries when second to Time Charter in the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes.

It is genuinely sad that the Derby's allure has dimmed for Fabre, the outstanding trainer in Europe over the past decade. It is sad, too, that the strong purist's streak within him apparently leads him away from Epsom in his quest for a stallion par excellence. Merely winning the Derby is not enough, which goes a long way towards explaining why Fabre is somewhat disparagingly referred to as "God" by the Newmarket set.

BATH

ROB WRIGHT

2.00 Migration
2.30 Bring Sweets
3.00 Kastaway
3.30 Raspberry Sauce
4.00 Mentiga
4.30 Harvey's Future
5.00 Bitter Sweet (nb)

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.30 BRING SWEETS.

Our Newmarket correspondent: 2.00 Azimah. 2.30 Deal Fair.

GOING: SOFT DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.00 BLATHWAYT MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,812: 1m 2f 46yd) (12 runners)

1 (9) ASHGAR (Prince Abdul Aziz Bin Saud) C Brittain 9-0 ....P Robinson –
2 (6) 0- DASHING 166 (Manor Farm Packers Ltd) L Cottrell 9-0 ....A Daly (3) –
3 (12) 60- DE BALLIOL 181 (Sheikh Mohammed) B Hills 9-0 ....M Hills 36
4 (10) 00-0 GROSVENOR FLYER 14 (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 ....J Fortune 53
5 (4) 0- KAFI 210 (H al-Maktoum) M Tregoning 9-0 ....E Ahern 32
6 (8) MIGRATION (K Abdulla) R Charlton 9-0 ....T Sprake –
7 (1) 00-0 NORTHWING 8 (Mrs D Claessen-Brierton) E Wheeler 9-0 ....S Carson (5) –
8 (5) 00- POWER HIT 169 (Avalon Surfacing Ltd) B Millman 9-0 ....M Fenton –
9 (11) 5-23 PRINCE SLAYER 8 (A Abdel-Khaleq) B Smart 9-0 ....J Stack [illegible]
10 (3) SARANGANI (R Hitchins) I Balding 9-0 ....K Fallon –
11 (7) 0 WOODCOTE WARRIOR 13 (A Perry) R Hannon 9-0 ....Dane O'Neill 30
12 (2) AZIMAH (H al-Maktoum) A Stewart 8-9 ....R Hills –

BETTING: 4-1 De Balliol, 5-1 Grosvenor Flyer, Sarangani, 6-1 Migration, Azimah, 7-1 Prince Slayer, 10-1 others.

1998: PEAK PATH 9-0 W R Swinburn (11-4) Sir M Stoute 11 ran

None of those to have seen the racecourse have looked anything out of the ordinary and it would no be no surprise if one of the newcomers took the spoils. The most interesting of these is MIGRATION, a son of Rainbow Quest who is a full brother to the smart Armiger. His trainer, Roger Charlton, has an excellent record at this course and is sure to have him ready to do himself justice at the first time of asking. Sarangani, by Polish Precedent, and Azimah, an Unfuwain filly out of 1m 2f winner Rafil, also catch the eye on breeding. Grosvenor Flyer shaped like a future winner when 4l seventh to Mirjan at Newmarket (1m 2f) although he ran below-par on soft ground as a juvenile.

2.30 TATTENHAM CORNER CONDITIONS STAKES
(3-Y-O: £5,551: 1m 2f 46yd) (5 runners)

1 (5) 0112-3 BRING SWEETS 20 (S) (W Gredley) B Hills 9-3 ....M Hills [illegible]
2 (1) 10- MARMADUKE 179 (S) (Angie Bloodstock Syndicate) L Cumani 9-3 .R Ffrench 63
3 (2) 13-00 PRIDE OF DINGLE 10 (S) (M Dawson) M Bell 9-3 ....M Fenton 50
4 (4) 10- CULZEAN 224 (BF,S) (Stonethorn Stud Farms) R Hannon 9-1 .. Dane O'Neill 60
5 (3) 31- DEAL FAIR 209 (S) (Baron G von Ullmann) H Cecil 9-1 ....K Fallon 80

BETTING: 11-10 Deal Fair, 11-4 Bring Sweets, 9-2 Culzean, 13-2 Marmaduke, 16-1 Pride Of Dingle.

1998: SADIAN 9-1 K Fallon (6-4 fav) H Cecil 4 ran

BRING SWEETS looks the safest selection. The Sabrehill colt proved his ability to handle soft ground when winning at Ripon and Doncaster towards the backend of last season and, considering underfoot conditions were much faster, he was not disgraced when a staying-on third to Mensa at Ripon (1m 1f) on his comeback. Henry Cecil, who won this race 12 months ago, relies on Deal Fair. He broke his duck when dead heating with Sabotiere at Salisbury (1m) in September and should be well served by this longer trip. Culzean obliged at the first time of asking at Leicester (7f) last September before disappointing at Sandown a week later. He has been gelded in the interim. Marmaduke won a small race at Milan last October before cutting little ice behind Lightning Arrow at Newmarket (1m), while Pride Of Dingle has yet to beat a horse home this season in two starts.

3.00 EBF LANSDOWN FILLIES STAKES
(Listed race; £12,514: 5f 11yd) (5 runners)

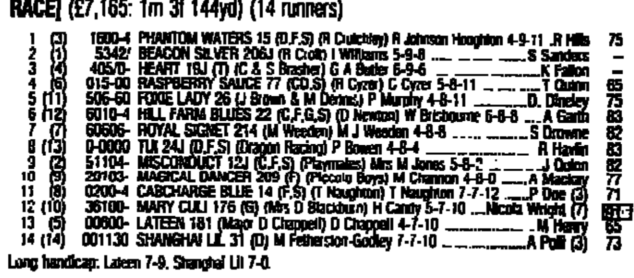
1 (3) 2040-5 CARHUE LASS 30 (D,S) (Patrick O'Leary) P O'Leary (Ire) 5-9-0 ....K Fallon –
2 (5) 1102-0 EASTERN LYRIC 14 (CD,F,G,S) (R Meredith) C Brittain 4-9-0 ...P Robinson 93
3 (2) 3100-1 INYA LAKE 24 (D,G,S) (B Minty) M Channon 3-8-11 ....T Quinn 90
4 (1) 1-0 ELLWAY STAR 14 (D,F) (Ellway Racing) B Hanbury 3-8-4 ....W Ryan 77
5 (4) 22140- KASTAWAY 224 (BF,D,F,S) (C Harper) D Elsworth 3-8-4 ....N Pollard [illegible]

BETTING: 13-8 Inya Lake, 5-2 Carhue Lass, 7-2 Ellway Star, 7-1 Eastern Lyric, 8-1 Kastaway.

1998: NO CORRESPONDING RACE.

Irish invader Carhue Lass is proven on the ground and will be all the better for her reappearance at the Curragh (weakened inside the last when fifth of 13, beaten 6l behind Zilinina), but the one to be on is INYA LAKE. Her four victories last season included the Molecomb Stakes at Goodwood and she looked better than ever on her reappearance at Haydock when, after meeting traffic problems, she wore down Henry Hall close home. Soft ground suits Mick Channon's filly and she can go in again. Ellway Star reverts to sprinting after failing to show behind Valentine Waltz in the Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket (7f) but is unproven on easy ground. Eastern Lyric and Kastaway were both trained by Jack Berry last season. The former, a winner of three handicaps last term, was taken off her feet by Bold Edge and company at Newmarket on her return. Kastaway has been off course since failing to justify favouritism in a claimer at Sandown last September and is asked a stiff question.

3.30 TOTE FILLIES HANDICAP [SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£7,165: 1m 3f 144yd) (14 runners)



1 (3) 1600-4 PHANTOM WATERS 15 (D,F,S) (R Crutchley) R Johnson Houghton 4-9-11 .R Hills 75
2 (1) 5342/ BEACON SILVER 206J (R Croft) I Williams 5-9-8 ....S Sanders –
3 (4) 405/0- HEART 19J (T) (C & S Brasher) G A Butler 5-9-6 ....K Fallon –
4 (6) 015-00 RASPBERRY SAUCE 77 (CD,S) (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 5-8-11 ....T Quinn 65
5 (11) 506-60 FOXIE LADY 26 (J Brown & M Dennis) P Murphy 4-8-11 ....D. Dineley 75
6 (12) 6010-4 HILL FARM BLUES 22 (C,F,G,S) (D Newton) W Brisbourne 6-8-8 ...A Garth 83
7 (7) 60606- ROYAL SIGNET 214 (M Weeden) M J Weeden 4-8-8 ....S Drowne 82
8 (13) 0-0000 TUI 24J (D,F,S) (Dragon Racing) P Bowen 4-8-4 ....R Havlin 83
9 (2) 51104- MISCONDUCT 12J (C,F,S) (Playmates) Mrs M Jones 5-8-2 ....J Quinn 82
10 (9) 20103- MAGICAL DANCER 209 (F) (Piccolo Boys) M Channon 4-8-0 ....A Mackay 77
11 (8) 0200-4 CABCHARGE BLUE 14 (F,S) (T Naughton) T Naughton 7-7-12 ....P Doe (3) 71
12 (10) 36100- MARY CULI 176 (G) (Mrs D Blackburn) H Candy 5-7-10 ...Nicola Wright (7) [illegible]
13 (5) 00600- LATEEN 181 (Major D Chappell) D Chappell 4-7-10 ....M Henry 65
14 (14) 001130 SHANGHAI LIL 31 (D) M Fetherston-Godley 7-7-10 ....A Polli (3) 73

Long handicap: Lateen 7-9, Shanghai Lil 7-0.

BETTING: 9-2 Misconduct, 5-1 Heart, 6-1 Hill Farm Blues, 7-1 Phantom Waters, Raspberry Sauce, 10-1 Cabcharge Blue, 12-1 Beacon Silver, 14-1 Tui, Magical Dancer, 16-1 others.

1998: RASPBERRY SAUCE 4-8-13 J Weaver (11-2) C Cyzer 10 ran

FORM ANALYSIS

Cabcharge Blue shaped encouragingly on her reappearance when around 7l fourth of 13 to Foxes Tail at Folkestone (1m 1f 149yd, heavy) but failed to get her head in front in 12 tries last year and can be taken on. Preference is for PHANTOM WATERS. She has slipped to an attractive mark — 3lb lower than when winning at Brighton (1m 4f) last summer — and should strip fitter for her reappearance 11l fourth of 12 to Delius at Windsor (1m 3f 135yd, good to firm). Misconduct showed progressive form on the Flat for Gary Moore last year and has carried on the good work for new connections over hurdles, winning three times. Like Heart, a four-time winner over hurdles this winter who will be ridden by Fallon, she could prove to be on a handy mark on her reversion to the Flat.

READING THE RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ....B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F - fell. P - pulled up. U - unseated rider. B - brought down. S - slipped up. R - refused. D - disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps. (B - blinkers. V - visor. T - tongue strap. H - hood. E - Eyeshield. C - course winner. D - distance winner. CD course and distance winner. BF - beaten favourite in most recent race). Going on which horse has won (F - firm, good to firm, hard. G - good. S - soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight to be carried. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating

4.00 PENSFORD MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,061: 5f 11yd) (17 runners)

1 (15) 0 BOSSCAT 8 (Boss Racing) K McAuliffe 8-8 ....K Fallon 36
2 (16) 0 NANTUCKET 11 (O McDowell) D Elsworth 8-8 ....N Pollard (3) 42
3 (14) DANCING RIDGE (N Bulmer) S Woodman 8-6 ....DOUBTFUL –
4 (12) LOCH INCH (Folly Road Racing Partners (1996)) K McAuliffe 8-6 ..S Sanders –
5 (3) 2 MENTIGA 27 (J Pickford) B Millman 8-6 ....M Fenton 64
6 (17) BABY BARRY (John W Barry) Mrs G Rees 8-3 ....Angela Hartley (7) –
7 (7) COOKIE (Mrs B Borchett) R Hannon 8-3 ....Dane O'Neill –
8 (1) 22 LORD BANKES 26 (BF) (T Lightbowne) W G M Turner 8-3 ....T Sprake [illegible]
9 (6) 64 STEP UP 15 (First Step) P Murphy 8-3 ....A Clark 41
10 (9) ROO (Mrs H Johnson Houghton) R Johnson Houghton 8-1 ....A Nicholls (5) –
11 (11) SAFARI BLUES (T Dale) R Hannon 8-1 ....P Fitzsimons (7) –
12 (4) 6 BOSSY SPICE 32 (Ms L Bell) M Channon 7-12 ....J Lowe 34
13 (10) 0 CHICAGO BLUES 22 (C Bradbury) A Newcombe 7-12 ....P Fessey 35
14 (13) MAGIC GRAND (Kingsdown Racing) M Channon 7-12 ....A Mackay –
15 (2) 0 MISS MILLENNIUM 15 (Millennium Partnership) B Hills 7-12 ....K Axon (7) 27
16 (8) NAMAQUALASS (M Quinn) M Quinn 7-12 ....F Norton –
17 (5) 0 STEP AHEAD 22 (First Step) P Murphy 7-12 ....P Doe (3) 34

BETTING: 3-1 Mentiga, 7-2 Lord Bankes, 7-1 Step Up, Magic Grand, 10-1 Miss Millennium, 12-1 others.

1998: MONKSTON POINT 8-8 S Whitworth (11-2) D Arbuthnot 13 ran

There are plenty of unknown quantities here, but Lord Bankes and MENTIGA have already shown useful form on softish ground and, given that both have got a favourably low draw, may fight out the finish. Lord Bankes showed plenty of promise when second, of 15, in the Brocklesby at Doncaster and confirmed that when narrowly failing to peg back Blackpool Mamma's at Musselburgh. He would not be winning out of turn but Mentiga is preferred. Rod Millman's youngster looked a shade unlucky when going down by a head to First Blood on his debut at Folkestone (the winner carried him left close home) and that form now looks very solid as the winner went on to follow up at Newmarket. Mick Channon, who does well in these type of races, runs two — Bossy Spice, down the field in a maiden seller at Doncaster first time out, and Magic Grand, a Magic Ring filly out of a winning sprinter. Two other newcomers worth noting in the market are Loch Inch, an Inchinor colt out of winning sprinter Carrie Kool, and Roo, a daughter of Rudimentary out of a lightly-raced mare.

4.30 TWERTON HANDICAP (£2,920: 5f 11yd) (18 runners)



1 (2) 443632 SAMWAR 3 (B,G) (A Peake) Mrs N Macauley 7-9-13 ....K Fallon 80
2 (14) 02000- BRAMBLE BEAR 218 (CD,F,S) (Mrs M Hill) M Blanshard 5-9-12 D Sweeney [illegible]
3 (4) 0560-1 TINKER OSMASTON 14 (C,D,F,S) (J Luff) R Hodges 8-9-12 ..J Savage (7) 83
4 (11) 0000-0 VICE PRESIDENTIAL 3 (D,S) (G C Cartons Ltd) J Given 4-9-8 ....R Hills 81
5 (18) 00000- KATHIES PET 182 (G) (Mrs E Tucker) R Hodges 4-9-4 ....A Clark 83
6 (3) 6400-1 PICCOLO CATIVO 6 (D,G,S) (J Gittins) Mrs G Rees 4-9-4 Angela Hartley (7) 87
7 (8) 3354-6 RITA'S ROCK APE 108 (Mrs J Pearce) R Brotherton 4-9-3 ....M Hills 87
8 (9) 050- PURNADAS ROAD 321 (R Toller) J Toller 4-9-1 ....S Sanders 36
9 (13) 000050 MISS DANGEROUS 14 (D,S) (M Quinn) M Quinn 4-9-1 ....F Norton 85
10 (5) 00-004 JOHNNY STACCATO 26 (D,G,S) (W Trexise) M Quinn 5-8-9 ....W Ryan 89
11 (1) 000- WRY ARDOUR 187 (Advanced Marketing Ltd) A Newcombe 3-8-8 S Carson (5) 55
12 (10) 0000-0 TILIA 15 (Mrs W Gibson Fleming) R Hannon 3-8-5 ....Dane O'Neill 46
13 (12) 0005-0 FORGOTTEN TIMES 22 (J Crook) K Ivory 5-8-5 ....A Nicholls (5) 74
14 (6) 04-530 PRESENT 'N CORRECT 103 (D,F) (M Clemence) J Bradley 6-8-4 .C Carver (5) 79
15 (17) 211134 BAPTISMAL ROCK 90 (BF) (M Patel) A Newcombe 5-8-3 ....N Pollard (3) 88
16 (15) 040-50 BALLASILLA 94 (Merthyr Motor Auctions) B Palling 4-8-3 ....T Sprake 73
17 (7) 416 LIVE TO TELL 52 (P Thorman) M Saunders 3-8-2 ....A Mackay 89
18 (16) 42463- HARVEY'S FUTURE 173 (Treasure Seekers Partnership) P Gilligan 5-7-11 A Polli (3) 82

BETTING: 5-1 Piccolo Cativo, 6-1 Baptismal Rock, 7-1 Samwar, Tinker Osmaston, 10-1 Rita's Rock Ape, 12-1 Tilia, Forgotten Times, 14-1 others.

1998: DANDE FLYER 5-9-6 S Whitworth (9-2 fav) D Arbuthnot 17 ran

A low-grade handicap in which the topweight, Samwar, was beaten in a seller last time out. A low draw is usually an advantage but could work against Folkestone (6f, soft) winner Tinker Osmaston who is best produced late and may struggle to obtain a clear run on the inside. PICCOLO CATIVO, who has the pace to grab a handy position and escapes a penalty for her neck defeat of Blushing Grenadier in an apprentices' event at Catterick (6f, soft), gets the nod. Although she is inclined to flash her tail, her character is not in question and she is proven in similarly testing conditions. Baptismal Rock has been freshened up after two below-par efforts on the all-weather and is well handicapped on earlier sand efforts. He was racing off an 8lb higher mark when completing a hat-trick with a short-head beating of Ocker at Southwell (6f, standard) in January and cannot be ruled out despite his high draw. Rita's Rock Ape is consistent at this level.

5.00 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,780: 1m 2f 46yd) (13 runners)

1 (9) 160- ROSE HILL 193 (F) (Chancery Bourse Inv (Brick Kiln Stud)) T Mills 9-7 ..L Carter 50
2 (13) 3633-0 NATALIE JAY 24 (P Jolliffe) M Channon 9-7 ....A Mackay 58
3 (12) 13-00 BOB'S PRINCESS 8 (V,F) (Mrs J Wright) P Chamings 9-3 ....R Perham 59
4 (1) 560- ODYSSEY 196 (A Oldrey) P Walwyn 9-3 ....W Ryan 57
5 (2) 45-0 RADA'S DAUGHTER 15 (Mrs R Plummer) I Balding 9-2 ....K Fallon 31
6 (6) 000-0 CABARET QUEST 8 (Thurloe Thoroughbreds III) R Hannon 9-1 ..Dane O'Neill 56
7 (10) 54300- BITTER SWEET 182 (J McGarry) D Elsworth 8-12 ....N Pollard (3) 62
8 (3) 005-0 MILL AFRIQUE 15 (B) (R Meredith) C Brittain 8-8 ....M Hills 54
9 (8) 000-3 FIZZYGIG 26 (T Holland-Martin) R Johnson Houghton 8-6 ....R Hills [illegible]
10 (5) 000- LUCKY LINDA 172 (P Winfield) J Dunlop 8-5 ....M Fenton 48
11 (4) 000-4 BRAVE VISION 27 (J Gale) J Arnold 8-4 ....S Sanders 59
12 (11) 0-0030 HATHNI KHOUND 8 (G King) D Marks 7-10 ....J Lowe 44
13 (7) 00-000 WHO GOES THERE 8 (Rest Hill Partnership) T M Jones 7-10 .Iona Wands (5) 28

Long handicap: Hathni Khound 7-5, Who Goes There 6-12.

BETTING: 9-2 Fizzygig, 5-1 Brave Vision, 7-1 Rose Hill, Rada's Daughter, 8-1 Bitter Sweet, 10-1 others.

1998: EASTWELL HALL 7-11 J Lowe (9-2 fav) R Curtis 13 ran

Rose Hill was not disgraced when finishing under 6l 10th of 20 to Fair Flight in a better-class event at Newmarket (1m, good) on her handicap bow last October. She could make her class tell at this level, but the race-fit RADA'S DAUGHTER is probably a safer bet. Another unexposed type, she is open to improvement for her reappearance 9l seventh of 15 to Maidens Blush at Windsor (1m 2f, good to firm) and starts her handicap career on a realistic mark (70). Fizzygig was well supported (6-1 from 12-1) when finishing an encouraging 3¼l third of nine to Captain Miller at Leicester (7f, good to soft) on her reappearance but is untried beyond that trip. Lucky Linda, not knocked about once her chance had gone when 11l seventh of 19 to Hesitation in a Doncaster maiden (7f, soft) in November, is another to command respect.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
B Hanbury	3	7	42.9	M Hills	12	48	25.0
H Cecil	3	9	33.3	K Fallon	6	30	20.0
R Charlton	13	47	27.7	M Henry	11	59	18.6
L Cumani	3	11	27.3	T Quinn	20	131	15.3
H Candy	5	21	23.8	R Ffrench	5	46	10.9

NOTTINGHAM
Flat, 7-race card
1st race: 2.15
Winning favourites: 34.9%
Long-distance traveller: Angie Marinie (4.15), 198 miles

EARLY BIRD
Best value this morning
Phantom Waters
8/1 with Ladbrokes
3.30 Bath

HUNTINGDON
Jumps, 6-race card
1st race: 5.15
Winning favourites: 53.0%
Long-distance traveller: King Torus (5.15), 239 miles

BATH
Flat, 7-race card
1st race: 2.00
Winning favourites: 30.2%
Long-distance travellers: Baby Barry (4.00), Piccolo Cativo (4.30), 184 miles

WINDSOR
Flat, 6-race card
1st race: 5.30
Winning favourites: 31.9%
Long-distance travellers: Bird Of Prey (6.30), She's A Gem (7.00), Rivendell (7.30), 181 miles

Underfoot conditions
Standard Hard Firm Good Soft Heavy
See racecards for detailed going

HUNTINGDON

ROB WRIGHT

5.15 Joint Account
5.45 Satin Lover
6.15 Commuter Country
6.45 Dream Of Nurmi
7.15 Marching Marquis
7.45 Bali Strong

Carl Evans: 5.15 Joint Account. 5.45 Hurricane Linda. 6.15 Commuter Country. 7.15 Marching Marquis.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

5.15 COUNTRYWIDE SURVEYORS HUNTERS CHASE (£1,623: 3m) (9)

1 55-1 BUZZ O'THE CROWD 18 (D,F,G,S) Mrs F Walker 12-12-7 Mr D Alers-Hankey (3)
2 P055 ANDERMATT 10 (T,G,S) J Cornwall 12-12-0 Mr J R Cornwall (7)
3 /1F- ARCTIC LIFE 389 (C,F,G) Mrs E Jones 10-12-0 .Mr D S Jones (3)
4 6F4P COMMERCIAL ARTIST 17 (D) D McCain 13-12-0 Mr J Crowley
5 -422 JOINT ACCOUNT 21 (D,F,G,S) Mrs F Needham 9-12-0 Mrs F Needham (3)
6 3023 KING TORUS 10 (D,F,G,S) V Dartnall 9-12-0 ....Mr J Jukes
7 2522 LINLATHEN 24 (BF,D,F,G,S) Mrs A Bell 9-12-0 Mr N M Bell (7)
8 PP51 MILL O'THE RAGS 17P (C,D,F,G) N King 10-12-0 Mr N King (7)
9 -648 STUNNING STUFF 31P (D,F,G,S) Mrs H Bridges 14-12-0 Miss L Bridges (7)

5-2 Joint Account, 3-1 King Torus, 4-1 Linlathen, 5-1 Buzz O'The Crowd, 6-1 others.

5.45 ABBOTTS ESTATE AGENTS NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (£1,475: 3m) (9)

1 2U12 ARROGANT HEIR 16P (D,S) D H Brown 6-12-0 .Mr N F Smith (5)
2 R3PF DANDE DOVE 3 (B) A Deakin 8-12-0 ....Mr J Crowley
3 DONALLACH MOR Miss V Williams 7-12-0 .Miss S Vickery (3)
4 P432 KELLY'S ORIGINAL 10P (D,F) W Tolhurst 11-12-0 Mr A Coe (7)
5 2-F4 RUSH 'N TEAR 37P (BF) Mrs A Hawkins 8-12-0 Mr A Charles-Jones (3)
6 1421 RUSTIC REVELRY 16P (D,F,G) R York 6-12-0 ...Mr P York (7)
7 3P31 SATIN LOVER 10P (D,F,G,S) Mrs S Dent 11-12-0 Mr S Swiers
8 PUPP WINWARD 22P (B) J R Best 7-12-0 ....Mr R Mckenna (7)
9 2-11 HURRICANE LINDA 16P (T,D) A Walker 12-11-9 Mr S Walker (7)

9-4 Satin Lover, 5-2 Hurricane Linda, 3-1 Donallach Mor, 7-1 others.

6.15 COUNTRYWIDE ASSURED GROUP CONFINED SERIES HUNTERS CHASE (£2,243: 3m) (7)

1 -112 BUONARROTI 45P (BF) Mrs D Bockett 12-12-4 Mr D S Dennis (7)
2 1424 LUSTY LIGHT 16P (D,F,G,S) W Tolhurst 13-12-4 Capt C Ward Thomas (3)
3 4134 BALLYALLIA CASTLE 10P (D) Mrs J Read 10-12-0 Mr S Andrews
4 1111 COMMUTER COUNTRY 17P (D,F,G,S) Mrs P Brightwell 8-12-0 Mr A Coe (7)
5 2241 GIVE IT A WHIRL 37P (D,G,S) R Haddow 10-12-0 Mr T Lane (7)
6 3321 REMILAN 10P (D,G,S) J M Turner 8-12-0 ....Mr A Sansome
7 2123 ZAM BEE 9P (D,F,G,S) Mrs A Bell 13-12-0 ... Mr N M Bell (7)

7-4 Commuter Country, 7-2 Remilan, 5-1 Buonarroti, 6-1 Give It A Whirl, 7-1 others.

6.45 NORWICH & PETERBOROUGH AMATEUR RIDERS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,758: 2m 110yd) (19)

1 6604 ALHOSAAM 20 (G,S) G L Moore 5-12-6 ....I Mongan (5)
2 1 DREAM OF NURMI 20 (D,F) K Bailey 5-11-13 ....R Forristal
3 1022 ENPEUS 7 (B,BF,S) M Pipe 4-11-7 ....A Farrant
4 4R00 BANAWAR 110 D Carroll 5-11-6 ....R Faulkner (7)
5 0600 BUKEHORN 92 Mrs P Sly 8-11-6 ....A Coe (7)
6 RPRR CAMBRIDGE GOLD 31P Mrs A E Johnson 7-11-6 ..D Cook (7)
7 0P00 DUNABRATTIN 22 (V) D Thom 6-11-6 ....G Carenza (7)
8 PU00 KOATHARY 22 A H Harvey 8-11-6 ....P McAllister (7)
9 0000 KOMASTA 20 Mrs D Butler 5-11-6 ....M Nicolls (7)
10 PF0P MERLINS BAY 68 J Gifford 5-11-6 ....R P Varian (7)
11 04- SHARAZAN 76F D O'Neill 6-11-6 ....Miss Z Owen (7)
12 0P TANNER'S GLENN 7 Miss C Dyson 6-11-6 ..Miss C Dyson (7)
13 0060 THE UGLY GUNNER 21 D McCain 6-11-6 ... D Dickenson (7)
14 0-44 EMMAGAN 186 G Hubbard 5-11-1 ....N Fehily (3)
15 P LILY JAQUES 111 Mrs A E Johnson 5-11-1 ....V Coogan (7)
16 6 PYREXIE 22 Mrs L Wadham 5-11-1 ....S Stronge (3)
17 P HOBART JUNCTION 80 J De Giles 4-11-0 ....F Brennan (7)
18 0P04 JAMORIN DANCER 22 M Banks 4-11-0 ....J Crowley
19 P604 TIE BREAK 34 (B) J Joseph 4-11-0 ....Miss B Fisher (7)

5-4 Dream Of Nurmi, 7-4 Enpeus, 7-1 Alhosaam, 14-1 Emmagan, 16-1 others.

7.15 BAIRSTOW EVES ESTATE AGENTS NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (£1,452: 2m 4f 110yd) (13)

1 32P1 MARCHING MARQUIS 28 (D,F,S) G Brown 8-12-7 Mr T Gibney (3)
2 PP20 ANNS DISPLAY 17 (S) Miss M Phillips 8-12-0 Mr N Wilson
3 R5F8 BARICHSTE 9P (V,G) N Pomfret 11-12-0 Major J Hayward (7)
4 2P-P BLACON POINT 31 M Mullineaux 8-12-0 Miss S Swindells (7)
5 3-23 CHESTER BEN 22 (G) Mrs P Barthorpe 10-12-0 Mrs F Needham (3)
6 4P44 COSA FUAIR 17 Mrs W Sykes 9-12-0 ....Mr R Burton (5)
7 0-30 COTTAGE COUNSEL 286 (G) Mrs L Jewell 7-12-0 Mr R Mckenna (7)
8 12 LEGAL LOOPHOLE 16P (G) N Pomfret 8-12-0 Mr E Andrewes (7)
9 d114 PANGERAN 24P (BF,G,S) N King 7-12-0 ....Mr N King (7)
10 5-F4 PROMETHEAN SINGER 16P M Wellings 13-12-0 Mr R Cooper (7)
11 -PPP SANDI DEVIL 10 Mrs S Smith 8-12-0 ....Mr D Dickenson (7)
12 1312 SHARLEY COP 16P (G,S) T Walford 7-11-9 Mr G Brewer (7)
13 PP43 WORTHY MEMORIES 10P Mrs E Bousquet-Payne 10-11-9 Mr S Stronge (3)

5-4 Marching Marquis, 4-1 Chester Ben, 11-2 Pangeran, 7-1 others.

7.45 FREDERICK MOTSON AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,723. 2m 5f 110yd) (15)

1 6236 ALKA INTERNATIONAL 20 (S) Mrs P Townsley 7-11-10
2 215- JOB RAGE 396 (S) R Ford 5-11-8 ....Miss C Townsley (7)
3 1-45 BIGWHEEL BILL 24 (V,C,F,G,S) J Jenkins 10-11-3 ....Mrs C Ford (5)
4 662U BALI STRONG 24 (BF) G Hubbard 5-11-3 ....O S Jones (3)
5 25P2 BURN OUT 41 (F) J Gifford 7-11-2 ....N Fenily (3)
6 P253 SANTELLA BOY 10P (C) Miss C Dyson 7-10-11 .Miss C Dyson (7)
7 2230 KELLY MAC 13 (F,G,S) D O'Brien 9-10-6 ....S Stronge (3)
8 453P EDGE AHEAD 39 (B) Mrs D Haine 9-10-2 ....T O L Jones (7)
9 40-2 NORTHERN STAR 22 (CD) J Wormall 8-10-2 Miss J Wormall (7)
10 0505 ROUND ROBIN 3 (BF,S) Mrs A E Johnson 5-10-0 ..D Cook (7)
11 PP05 MR ZIG 22 (F) J Joseph 10-10-0 ....Miss B Fisher (7)
12 P0-6 ROSIE 10 (F) P Hiatt 9-10-0 ....Miss C Herrington (7)
13 0P6 ALHERI 20 J De Giles 8-10-0 ....R Forristal
14 PP05 FEARLESS WONDER 3 (S) H Howe 8-10-0 Miss K Di Marte (7)
15 6P6 WINTER LORD 14 D O'Neill 8-10-0 ....G Carenza (7)

3-1 Bali Strong, 4-1 Alka International, 6-1 Burn Out, 8-1 Bigwheel Bill, 9-1 others.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Southwell

Going: standard

2.15 (1m) 1, **Pine Ridge Lad** (Mr S Walker, 6-1); 2, Tom (10-1); 3, Pursuivant (14-1). 4, Almazhar (7-1) Domino Flyer (5th) 5-1 jt-fav 16 ran. Nk, hd. J L Harris. Tote: £6.60: £1.50, £2.60, £2.80, £2.20. DF £31.50 CSF £55.21 Tricast £789.25.

2.45 (1m 4f) 1, **Alsahib** (Martin Dwyer, 5-1). 2, Count de Money (6-1). 3, Oversman (7-2 fav). 11 ran. Hd, 2l. W Muir. Tote £7.10: £1.40, £2.10, £1.50 DF £27.00 CSF £32.71.

3.15 (1m) 1, **Align** (T Quinn, 11-2). 2, Face The Class (12-1). 3, Automatic (13-8 fav) 12 ran. 5l, hd. J Hills. Tote £6.50: £2.00, £3.80, £1.30. DF £23.60 CSF £58.89

3.45 (6f) 1, **Keen Hands** (R Price, 14-1). 2, Carrie Pooter (9-2); 3, Night Life (5-1). 4, James Dee (33-1). So Willing 4-1 fav 16 ran ¾l, hd. Mrs N Macauley. Tote, £14.30: £2.70, £1.30, £1.60, £8.50 DF £25.30 Tote Trifecta £497.10. CSF £68.80. Tricast £344.21

4.15 (5f) 1, **Foxkey** (K Fallon, 8-11 fav): 2, Joely Green (14-1). 3, My Bold Girl (7-1). 8 ran. 1½l, 3½l. E Alston. Tote £1.40: £1.10, £2.00, £2.10. DF £5.80 CSF £13.66

4.45 (7f) 1, **Red Venus** (S Sanders, 10-1); 2, Crystal Lass (10-1); 3, Little Italy (5-2 fav), 4, Beckon (7-1). 16 ran. 1l, 6l. Miss Gay Kelleway. Tote £10.50: £2.50, £2.30, £1.60, £2.30 DF £28.40 CSF £100.82. Tricast £266.69

Jackpot: not won (pool of £49,047.34 carried forward to Nottingham today).
Placepot £85.70. Quadpot £7.40.

Plumpton

Going: good, good to soft in places

2.00 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Amoroso** (M A Fitzgerald, 6-4 fav). 2, Mothers Help (2-1); 3, Rush (2-1) 4 ran 1½l, dist. N Henderson. Tote £2.00. DF. £2.60. CSF £4.48.

2.30 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, **King's Whisper** (R Thornton, 6-4). 2, Raluckino (40-1). 3, The Happy Monarch (25-1). Emerald Statement 8-11 fav 5 ran 3½l, dist G Hubbard Tote £2.20. £1.30. £6.90 DF £30.00 CSF £30.38.

3.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Jolifver** (A P McCoy, 13-8 fav): 2, Rusty Reel (9-2). 3 Balanak (7-2) 9 ran. NR Goldenacres. 3½l. 1¼l M Pipe Tote. £2.50: £1.50, £1.80, £1.20. DF £5.40 CSF £7.96

3.30 (2m 5 ch) 1, **Zambezi Spirit** (Derek Byrne, 14-1): 2, Leitrim Cottage (11-2 jt-fav). 3, Jason's Boy (7-1). Tuckers Town (5th) 11-2 jt-fav. 11 ran. Nk, 10l Mrs Merrita Jones Tote £19.90: £4.50, £3.00, £1.30 DF £68.70. CSF £84.88. Tricast £546.95

4.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Otago Heights** (M A Fitzgerald, 4-1), 2, Illuminate (11-2), 3 Country Boy (12-1). Golden Fawn 7-2 jt-fav 9 ran. 14l, 15l Mrs J Pitman. Tote £3.80: £1.20, £2.00, £3.30 DF £17.60 CSF £24.92 Tricast £224.03

4.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Hal Hoo Yaroom** (A P McCoy, 11-1) 2, Doctor Bravious (10-1); 3, Millmount (8-1). Bessie Browne 7-2 fav 9 ran 1¼l, 4l J Jenkins. Tote. £9.80. £3.70. £3.20, £3.20 DF. £64.20 CSF £102.71 Tricast £849.57

Placepot £484.80. Quadpot £59.20.

☐ Julian Pritchard continued in winning form at the Grove & Rufford point-to-point meeting on Sunday, when a double took his season's score to 33 [Carl Evans writes]. That equals the total Pritchard achieved last year when he shared the National Men's Championship with Andrew Dalton, and the Ledbury-based rider now seems sure to break Polly Curling's record of 40 winners in a season.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

HUNTINGDON TRAINERS: Miss V Williams, 4 winners from 9 runners, 44.4%, M Pipe, 10 from 33, 30.3%, G Hubbard, 14 from 69, 20.3%, K Bailey, 18 from 90, 20.0%, Mrs D Haine, 8 from 46, 17.4%, J Gifford, 11 from 74, 14.9%, Mrs S Smith, 6 from 44, 13.6%, Mrs P Sly, 3 from 29, 10.3%. Only qualifiers.

JOCKEYS. No qualifiers.



A racket to tempt the masses

Nick Szczepanik on an LTA scheme offering net gains to young and old

Only a few short weeks ago, a vast television audience (apart from those who could not bear to look) watched the Davis Cup tie between Great Britain and the United States and thrilled to the quality of the tennis, the intensity of the competition and the drama of the occasion. So much for the accusation that the British only notice tennis during Wimbledon fortnight.

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) hopes that the interest engendered by that tie can be channelled into Play Tennis 99, eight days of events aimed at broadening the base of the game in Britain by providing free access to the best facilities and coaches. From May 1 to 8, Britain's biggest tennis promotion offers players of all ages and levels of experience free coaching, skills-testing and competitions at centres in every leading town and city in Britain.

"We want to maximise the interest in the sport generated by the recent efforts of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski during their memorable Davis Cup tie and encourage more people to take up tennis and enjoy the game for years to come," John Crowther, the chief executive of the LTA, said.

More than 72,000 people in 1,000 clubs and centres participated in Play Tennis 98 and the LTA has invited 2,700 clubs, 2,500 schools, 2,800 coaches and 570 local authorities to take part this year. Eighteen thousand of the participants last year were newcomers to the sport and more than 80 per cent were under 18. Almost 9,000 signed up for lessons as a result.

Jim Courier, of the United States, whose performances in the Davis Cup proved decisive, said in one of his post-match press conferences: "Great Britain is really lucky to have seen that match and you should see a lot of kids wanting to pick up a racket and go out there and play."

Apart from the obvious need to foster new talent and unearth Davis and Fed Cup stars of the future, the week seeks to introduce as many players as possible to the benefits of coaching and to remind others of the enjoyment to be had from the game. Each of the eight days of the programme features a different theme, including a family day, "rusty rackets", aimed at those who have not played recently, "evergreens", for those aged 50 or older, and "anyone can play", for disabled players.

"Performance at the top end is important to our aims as an organisation, but another objective is to get more people playing more regularly, not just during Wimbledon fortnight," Heidi Cohu, of the LTA, said.

"We're not just looking for beginners. A lot of our work is about broadening the base, as with any sport. The more people that take part, the more likely you are to unearth talent, and our job is to identify that talent and nurture it as best we can. We can't make champions, but we can give them the best opportunities to develop." Promising young beginners could find themselves among a final 18 selected for a day of training at the All England Club.

One useful spin-off of the programme will be to make occasional, or "retired", players aware of the improved facilities now available and to retain their involvement. It is also hoped to extend awareness of the growing number of indoor facilities, which ensure that there is no need to wait for the strawberries to ripen before getting the racket out.

Even though not all of the centres involved will be running events on every day, each has been selected for its ability to give a proper welcome to the sport for the numbers expected to attend, as well as being able to offer a continuing involvement through coaching and access to facilities.

Some centres will boast the added attraction of celebrity support: Henman, Sam Smith, the Britain women's No 1, Frank Bruno, from the boxing world, Scott Gibbs and Gary Armstrong, the British Isles rugby players, and William Roach, the *Coronation Street* actor, will be attending various venues. Those big names, added to the excitement created by the Davis Cup tie, should push the number of participants throughout the country as high as 100,000.

For a list of venues and information about registration, there is an LTA information line. Details can also be found on the LTA website.

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.lta.org.uk — coaching schemes, tournament results and news
INFORMATION LINE: 0930 153040

Dedicated followers of fashion shine

Mel Webb profiles the eccentric Swedes who have achieved a unique golfing double



Parnevik lifts the Sam Snead Trophy after winning the Greater Greensboro Classic

If casting about for a race noted for its eccentricity, the mind's eye would travel a long way down the list until it alighted on the Swedish and, even then, would move rapidly on. What a neat little paradox it was, then, that when two of their professional golfers created a small moment in sporting history on Sunday, they were the very two who would stand out in any crowd up to and including circus perfomers.

Which is not to say that either Jesper Parnevik or Jarmo Sandelin are figures of fun. Quirky they may be, unorthodox in dress and style they assuredly are, but with a set of clubs in their hands, a course on which to play and beat and they are as deadly serious as anybody.

So it was not an earth-shattering surprise when Parnevik won the Greater Greensboro Classic in North Carolina on Sunday, nor was it a shock when Sandelin took the Peugeot Spanish Open at El Prat on the outskirts of Barcelona. What marks their achievement is that they prevailed on the same day — the first time that Swedes have had simultaneous victories on the two strongest tours in the world.

The two of them, tall and slim, Parnevik, 34, and Sandelin, 31, share a penchant for designer clothing. Of course, Parnevik has his trademark upturned brim on his cap (sorry, Jesper, it still looks daft, but at least you don't wear it back to front). Then there are the tight-fitting trousers and equally snug shirts.

Meanwhile, over the weekend in Spain, Sandelin sported shirts that were pure early-Seventies Cliff Richard — white with six-inch points on the collar on Saturday, a green towelling number with a zip-up neck on Sunday that would have looked just right by the swimming pool at his home in Monaco but all wrong on a golf course. Walking clothes-horses they are, both of them.

Their differences, if only in career profiles, are as marked as their similarities. Parnevik went to the United States in 1996 and has made an outstanding success of it — his win put him back in the world top 20 at No 17 — whereas Sandelin's one foray into American territory, also in 1996, brought a long string of missed cuts and humiliation.

Parnevik's victory was his second in the United States and his prize of $480,000 (about £290,000) brought his earnings for the season to $728,598. By comparison, Sandelin's £100,000 prize, the third winner's cheque of his career, took his prize-money this year to a comparatively modest £138,972. The European Tour might still be the place to cut teeth as a tournament professional, but the United States is still where the crock of gold is.

The target for both men is the Ryder Cup and in this contest Sandelin has a comfortable lead. His victory pushed him into fifth place in the Ryder Cup table, whereas although Parnevik has rejoined the European Tour, he has yet to commit himself to playing enough tournaments to qualify by prize-money alone.

> 'They share a penchant for designer clothing'

In 1997, Parnevik had to rely on a wild-card selection but Mark James, the captain this year, will need a lot of convincing before he does that. James will expect at least for Parnevik to show good form in Europe before he puts his name down in his little black book.

Sandelin is doing things the right way. He is playing with more confidence and authority than he has ever done and a place is his for the winning. His performance last week was that of a mature and capable tournament player. If he gets on Concorde in September with 11 others, he will feel himself, for the first time, to be their equal.

Kent lead the way as revolution begins

CRICKET

Club Commentary
By Geoffrey Dean

THE consequences of a grass-roots revolution in English club cricket come into effect on Saturday, when most of the leading leagues in the country begin their programme for the new season. Ten leagues have been accorded Premiership status by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), whose target of double that number may be reached by next year.

The need to reorganise league cricket was first officially mooted in *Raising the Standard* in 1997. By proposing a lengthening of games and by insisting on declarations and possible draws rather than limited overs, it was felt, correctly, that players would have a better chance of bridging the gap between club and county cricket.

The ECB decided that it wanted matches of at least 120 overs, which would therefore have to start in the morning rather than around lunchtime. There was, and still is, opposition in some leagues to that concept as there are players who work on Saturday mornings, but the ECB was adamant that if leagues wanted Premier League status — and with it the grant of £1,000 for each club — its criteria would have to be met.

The vast majority of league cricketers are happy with the changes, even though it means both a drawn-out day and potentially longer in the field. Caps, though, have been put on the number of overs that a side batting first can receive. In the Surrey championship, for example, no side can bat for more than 66 overs, leaving the other 54.

The likelihood is, however, that the better teams, if they are not bowled out, will declare at the halfway stage or earlier to give themselves more time to dismiss the opposition.

Surrey are one of the ten new Premier Leagues, the others being Birmingham and District, Cheshire, East Anglia, Essex, Kent, Middlesex, West of England, Sussex and Yorkshire. Smaller ECB grants are being given to two so-called Premier Elect Leagues, which meet some of the board's criteria for premier status (pyramid structures with promotion and relegation) but not the key one of 120 overs. These are Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire, which are likely to be joined next year by, among others, Derbyshire and Devon.

The board has given bigger grants of £2,000 to clubs that formed the new Regional Premier (as opposed to county) Leagues of East Anglia and West of England. Clearly, clubs needed extra financial help with the high costs in competing over such a wide area. The West of England League is drawn from Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

The biggest grant of all, £4,000 per club, has been given to the Kent League for agreeing to take part in a pilot scheme this season. Every match will be a two-day affair spread over two weekends, as in Australian grade cricket. Outright wins, with extra points, will be achieved by bowling a side out twice or by reaching a target in the fourth innings. In the event of a draw, first-innings "win" points are awarded.

To confuse matters, though, the side batting on the first day must adjourn its innings at tea, even if not bowled out. Side B will then bat for the last session and side A will be able to resume its first innings at the start of play the next weekend. The idea is to ensure that both teams bat and bowl on each day.

"We think this is an interesting experiment and a good way of making the transition from one to two-day league cricket." Frank Kemp, the ECB's director of the recreational game, said. Interesting, perhaps: bizarre most definitely.

> 'The vast majority of cricketers are happy with the changes, even if it means longer in the field'

SPORT IN BRIEF

Slaney to carry on drug fight

■ **ATHLETICS:** Mary Slaney, the former 1,500 and 3,000 metres world champion, has been found guilty of drug taking by an International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) arbitration panel (David Powell writes). Slaney has exhausted the IAAF appeals process but is taking legal action to clear her name, claiming that the test showing an excessive testosterone reading was flawed and discriminatory against women.
Slaney failed a test taken at the United States Olympic Games trials in 1996, but it was not upheld by her national governing body. Now the IAAF has concluded that an offence occurred and has annulled her results for the two years she should have been banned, from June 1996 to 1998.

■ **CRICKET:** Five members of the Pakistan World Cup squad, including Wasim Akram, the captain, have been summoned to appear before a judicial inquiry into match-fixing. Wasim, Salim Malik, Ijaz Ahmed, Mushtaq Ahmed and Waqar Younis were due to appear before judge Malik Mohammad Qayum tomorrow, but because the team was due to leave for England today for the World Cup, they will be represented by their lawyers.

■ **CYCLING:** Matt Stephens, the national road race champion and captain of the Harrods team, narrowed the gap behind Gordon McAuley, of New Zealand, the leader of the Premier Calender 17-race series, to nine points after the East Riding Classic two-day event. Huw Pritchard, the winner of the second stage of the East Riding event, replaces Colin Sturgess, the former world champion, in the five-day Travelwise Tour, starting at Morecambe on Thursday. Sturgess is suffering from a back injury.

■ **MODERN PENTATHLON:** Kate Allenby, who took the women's World Cup title last year without winning a race until the final, secured victory in a round for the first time in Darmstadt, Germany, on Sunday (David Powell writes). Allenby was rewarded for the extra work she has put into her running training, moving up from fourth place to first on the run, the last event.

■ **REAL TENNIS:** Penny Lumley and Sue Haswell, the world doubles champions, narrowly retained their title after a hard-fought battle against Sally Jones and Alex Garside, the former champions, in the final of the Guy Salmon women's world championship at Hampton Court. They won 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

NOTTINGHAM

ROB WRIGHT

.15 Petit Palais — 3.45 Chambre Separee
.45 Ambitious — 4.15 Bob's Buster
.15 Barringer — 4.45 Clued Up
5.20 Bluewain Lady

GOING: HEAVY (SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST — SIS

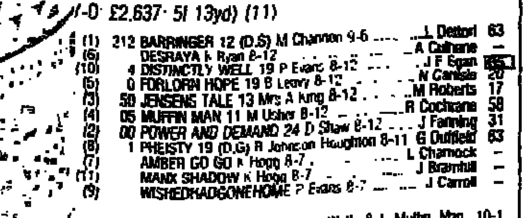
.15 'TRY RACE SPONSORSHIP AT NOTTINGHAM' SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,110: 6f 15yd) (14 runners)

1 (1) 0-50 CLARANNA 7 (D,S) R Fahey 8-13 ... R Winston (3) 53
2 (3) 3546 LADYCAKE 27 (B,G) J Berry 8-13 ... J Carroll 61
3 (12) 000- LAMENT 141 (D,G) Mrs L Stubbs 8-13 ... M Tebbutt 66
4 (11) -560 SATIN SLIPPER 29 (S) K Ivory 8-13 ... J F Egan [illegible]
5 (14) 0 FLYNN 19 N Babbage 8-12 ... M Roberts 47
6 (2) 0-0 PETIT PALAIS 8 (B) B Meehan 8-12 ... W J O'Connor 47
7 (9) 0-20 SPLIT THE ACES 7 R Hodges 8-12 ... R Cochrane 66
8 (7) -200 SUHAIL 22 F Gilligan 8-12 ... J Tate 55
9 (10) AVARITIOUS Miss J Craze 8-7 ... V Halliday –
10 (13) 00-0 GREY MATTER 21 T Caldwell 8-7 ... O Pears 53
11 (6) KATINO 8 Leavy 8-7 ... N Carlisle –
12 (5) LITTLE LENA J Wharton 8-7 ... N Callan (5) –
13 (4) 500- MERANIE GIRL 181 J Arnold 8-7 ... Martin Dwyer 62
14 (8) 2554 STUTTON GAL 55 (B) J Wharton 8-7 ... Dale Gibson 53

Ladycake, 5-1 Split The Aces, 6-1 Claranna, Suhail, 7-1 Meranie Girl, 8-1 ... Stutton Gal, 16-1 others.

.45 'NOTTINGHAM FOR BUSINESS AND PLEASURE' FILLIES HANDICAP (£3,493: 6f 15yd) (14)

(8) 4-00 BRANSTON BERRY 11 (D,F,S) J Eyre 4-10-0 ... R Lappin 60
(11) 50-3 AMEENA 10 R Fahey 4-9-7 ... R Winston (3) 59
(7) 1552 AMBITIOUS 12 (B,D) J Fanshawe 4-9-5 ... R Cochrane 72
(3) 0000 SELKIRK ROSE 42 (G) J Given 4-9-3 ... A Culhane 62
(1) 0-00 WHITE VALLEY 14 S Dow 4-9-0 ... J F Egan 46
(12) 0/00 BLUSHING VICTORIA 11 (B,C,F) J Glover 4-9-0 ... S D Williams 39
(5) 05-0 SANDY SHORE 26 (B) J Wharton 4-8-13 ... J Carroll 30
(14) 060- TAJMIL 165 (V) D Morris 4-8-13 ... M Tebbutt 73
(13) 006 FINE AND ROSY 20 M Dods 4-8-13 ... Dale Gibson 48
(10) 0-60 ORIEL GIRL 77 (F,S) M Ryan 4-8-12 ... P McCabe 68
(4) 0-41 RISKY VALENTINE 22 (CD,S) J Spearing 3-8-12 ... G Hind 62
(6) 150- DAWN PATROL 295 (S) K Hogg 4-8-11 ... J Bramhill 73
[illegible]



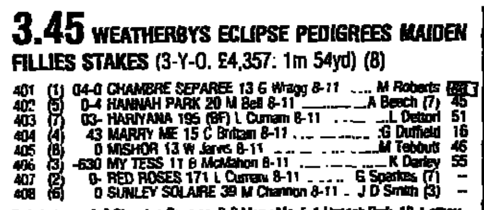
.15 'NOTTINGHAM 1ST EVERY TIME' NOVICE [illegible] AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,637: 5f 13yd) (11)

[illegible]

3.45 WEATHERBYS ECLIPSE PEDIGREES MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (3-Y-O, £4,357: 1m 54yd) (8)

401 (1) 04-0 CHAMBRE SEPAREE 13 G Wragg 8-11 ... M Roberts [illegible]
402 (5) 0-4 HANNAH PARK 20 M Bell 8-11 ... A Beech (7) 45
403 (7) 03- HARIYANA 195 (BF) L Cumani 8-11 ... L Dettori 51
404 (4) 43 MARRY ME 15 C Brittain 8-11 ... G Duffield 16
405 (8) 0 MISHOR 13 W Jarvis 8-11 ... M Tebbutt 46
406 (3) -630 MY TESS 11 B McMahon 8-11 ... K Darley 55
407 (2) 0- RED ROSES 171 L Cumani 8-11 ... G Sparkes (7) –
408 (6) 0 SUNLEY SOLAIRE 39 M Channon 8-11 ... J D Smith (3) –

7-4 Hariyana, 5-2 Chambre Separee, 9-2 Marry Me, 6-1 Hannah Park, 10-1 others.



4.15 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,738: 1m 54yd) (18)

501 (2) 5-51 HADEQA 6 (B,F,S) P Evans 9-9 (6ex) ... J F Egan 64
502 (6) 00-5 REDOUBLE 116 R Hannon 9-7 ... C Lowther 65
503 (4) 05-4 LEAVE IT TO ME 22 S Woods 9-3 ... G Duffield 59
504 (18) 50-6 SHARP SPICE 22 D Coakley 9-1 ... K Darley 57
505 (9) 5-50 GOLDEN REEF 22 R Hollinshead 9-1 ... P M Quinn (7) [illegible]
506 (14) 000- BOB'S BUSTER 222 J Wharton 9-0 ... R Cochrane 67
507 (3) 0-04 EXALT 21 (T) A Carroll 8-11 ... M Tebbutt 16
508 (15) 400- GOWITHTHEFLOW 204 B Rothwell 8-11 ... R Winston (3) 62
509 (16) 006- ACE OF TRUMPS 209 (BF,F) W Haggas 8-9 ... N Callan (5) 60
510 (13) 60-0 ARCHIE BABE 22 (G) J J Quinn 8-9 ... A Culhane 59
511 (11) 0001 ANGIE MARINIE 8 (CD,S) M Pipe 8-9 (6ex) ... G Hind 51
512 (10) 000- TOP OF THE CHARTS 184 J Noseda 8-6 ... R Price 51
513 (12) 360- ANNANDALE 227 K Ryan 8-6 ... J Carroll 43
514 (8) 30-5 OREGON DREAM 22 M Bell 8-1 ... R Mullen (3) 53
515 (5) 000- LUNAR LORD 171 J S Moore 8-0 ... J Fanning 57
516 (17) 0102 TROIS ELLES 20 R Spicer 7-11 ... N Kennedy 61
517 (7) 00-0 VENTURE ISLAND 62 W Musson 7-10 ... Dale Gibson 43
518 (1) 5600 SUPERBOS 27 R Williams 7-10 ... G Bardwell 56

9-2 Hadeqa, 6-1 Leave It To Me, 7-1 Golden Reef, 8-1 Angie Marinie, 10-1 Oregon Dream, Trois Elles, 12-1 Sharp Spice, Bob's Buster, 14-1 others.

4.45 'COME RACING AT NOTTINGHAM' FILLIES HANDICAP (£4,288: 1m 1f 213yd) (5)

601 (5) 0111 TOP JEM 13 (D,F,S) M Ryan 5-10-0 ... P McCabe 83
602 (3) 06-1 CELESTIAL WELCOME 22 (G,S) Mrs M Reveley 4-9-11 ... A Culhane 83
603 (1) 04-4 REGAL BRIDGET 26 B McMahon 4-8-13 ... R Cochrane [illegible]
604 (4) 0-48 WOORE LASS 8 (G) R Hannon 3-8-1 ... A McCarthy (3) 82
605 (2) 6200 CLUED UP 17 (V,D,F,G,S) P Evans 6-7-12 ... J F Egan 84

6-4 Celestial Welcome, 7-4 Top Jem, 11-2 Regal Bridget, 8-1 others.

5.20 '249 DAYS LEFT IN NOTTINGHAM MILLENNIUM COUNTDOWN' HANDICAP (£3,224: 1m 6f 15yd) (14)

[illegible]

COURSE SPECIALISTS

[illegible]

WINDSOR

ROB WRIGHT

5.30 Russian Fox — 7.00 Purple Fling (nap)
6.00 Mane Frame — 7.30 Compatriot
6.30 Sweet Pea — 8.00 Greenaway Bay

Newmarket correspondent: 7.30 Compatriot (nap).

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES)
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST — SIS

5.30 GARTER MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,485: 5f 10yd) (17)

1 AISLE I Balding 9-0 ... Martin Dwyer 12
2 BLACKWATCH N Callaghan 9-0 ... R Ffrench 5
3 BOLEYN CASTLE T Mills 9-0 ... T Quinn 17
4 BROKENBOROUGH M Blanshard 9-0 ... J Quinn 6
5 B W LEADER P Cole 9-0 ... J Fortune 9
6 6 CD FLYER 11 (BF) M Channon 9-0 ... S Drowne 1
7 CEDAR LIGHT R O'Sullivan 9-0 ... P P Murphy (3) 14
8 DANAKIM R Hannon 9-0 ... P Dobbs (7) 10
9 IRANOO S C Williams 9-0 ... A McGlone 11
10 4 KNOCKTOPHER ABBEY 22 B Millman 9-0 ... Dean McKeown 16
11 MORNING DAWN E Dunlop 9-0 ... G Carter 7
12 3 RUSSIAN FOX 11 R Hannon 9-0 ... R Hughes 2
13 0 SHAW VENTURE 24 B Palling 9-0 ... G Faulkner (3) 4
14 BAUGET JOUETTE J R Poulton 8-9 ... A Morris 8
15 LUNALUX C Smith 8-9 ... J Tate 3
16 PIPS STAR D Arbuthnot 8-9 ... S Whitworth 13
17 REGARDEZ-MOI A Carroll 8-9 ... C Rutter 15

7-2 Russian Fox, 4-1 B W Leader, 5-1 Knocktopher Abbey, 7-1 Aisle, Cd Flyer, 12-1 Boleyn Castle, Morning Dawn, 14-1 others.

6.00 ERMINE CLASSIFIED STAKES (£2,288: 1m 3f 135yd) (10)

1 66-0 DUELLO 8 (F,S) M Blanshard 8-9-7 ... J Dolan 5
2 -550 SEA DANZIG 22 (F,G) J Bridger 6-9-7 ... R Brisland (7) 4
3 0-00 TALIB 83 (CD,S) P Mitchell 5-9-7 ... Martin Dwyer 10
4 /00- TOM TAILOR 152J (C,S) D Elsworth 5-9-7 ... A Daly (3) 3
5 500- WELL DRAWN 154 H Candy 6-9-7 ... Nicola Wright (7) 6
6 23-2 MANE FRAME 22 H Morrison 4-9-6 ... C Rutter 8
7 500- PICULA SIERE 187J (B) N Babbage 4-9-6 ... S Drowne 7
8 60-0 PRINCELY SPARK 18 (D,F) N Chance 4-9-6 ... W J O'Connor 1
9 40-1 DALBY OF YORK 8 (CD,F) P Cole 3-8-3 ... G Carter 2
10 00-3 SHARP ENDING 26 A Jarvis 3-8-1 ... L Newton 9

2-1 Mane Frame, 5-2 Dalby Of York, 9-2 Sea Danzig, 7-1 Duello, 16-1 Picula Siere, [illegible]

6.30 CROWN FILLIES HANDICAP (£3,851: 1m 67yd) (9)

[illegible]

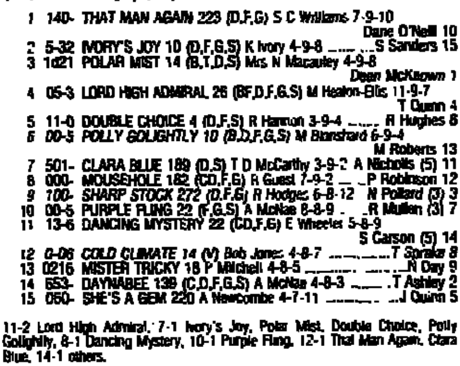
COURSE SPECIALISTS

[illegible]

7.00 SCEPTRE HANDICAP (£3,909: 5f 10yd) (15)

1 140- THAT MAN AGAIN 223 (D,F,G) S C Williams 7-9-10 ... Dane O'Neill 10
2 5-32 IVORY'S JOY 10 (D,F,G,S) K Ivory 4-9-8 ... S Sanders 15
3 1d21 POLAR MIST 14 (B,T,D,S) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-8 ... Dean McKeown 1
4 05-3 LORD HIGH ADMIRAL 26 (BF,D,F,G,S) M Heaton-Ellis 11-9-7 ... T Quinn 4
5 11-0 DOUBLE CHOICE 4 (D,F,S) R Hannon 3-9-4 ... R Hughes 6
6 00-5 POLLY GOLIGHTLY 10 (B,D,F,G,S) M Blanshard 6-9-4 ... M Roberts 13
7 501- CLARA BLUE 189 (D,S) T D McCarthy 3-9-2 ... A Nicholls (5) 11
8 000- MOUSEHOLE 182 (CD,F,G) R Guest 7-9-2 ... P Robinson 12
9 100- SHARP STOCK 272 (D,F,G) R Hodges 6-8-12 ... N Pollard (3) 3
10 00-5 PURPLE FLING 22 (F,G,S) A McNae 8-8-9 ... R Mullen (3) 7
11 13-6 DANCING MYSTERY 22 (CD,F,G) E Wheeler 5-8-9 ... S Carson (5) 14
12 0-06 COLD CLIMATE 14 (V) Bob Jones 4-8-7 ... T Sprake 8
13 0216 MISTER TRICKY 18 P Mitchell 4-8-5 ... N Day 9
14 653- DAYNABEE 139 (C,D,F,G,S) A McNae 4-8-3 ... T Ashley 2
15 050- SHE'S A GEM 220 A Newcombe 4-7-11 ... J Quinn 5

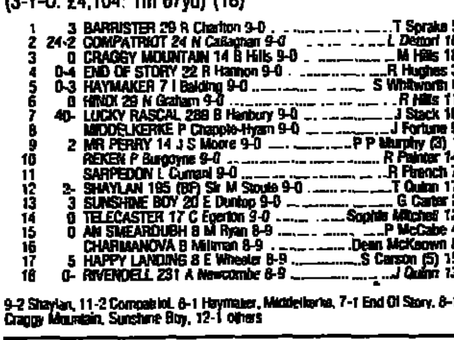
11-2 Lord High Admiral, 7-1 Ivory's Joy, Polar Mist, Double Choice, Polly Golightly, 8-1 Dancing Mystery, 10-1 Purple Fling, 12-1 That Man Again, Clara Blue, 14-1 others.



7.30 CASTLE MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £4,104: 1m 67yd) (18)

1 3 BARRISTER 29 R Charlton 9-0 ... T Sprake 5
2 24-2 COMPATRIOT 24 N Callaghan 9-0 ... L Dettori 18
3 0 CRAGGY MOUNTAIN 14 B Hills 9-0 ... M Hills 18
4 0-4 END OF STORY 22 R Hannon 9-0 ... R Hughes 3
5 0-3 HAYMAKER 7 I Balding 9-0 ... S Whitworth 6
6 0 HINDI 29 N Graham 9-0 ... R Hills 11
7 40- LUCKY RASCAL 289 B Hanbury 9-0 ... J Stack 10
8 MIDDELKERKE P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 ... J Fortune 9
9 2 MR PERRY 14 J S Moore 9-0 ... P P Murphy (3) 1
10 REKEN P Burgoyne 9-0 ... R Painter 14
11 SARPEDON L Cumani 9-0 ... R Ffrench 7
12 2- SHAYLAN 195 (BF) Sir M Stoute 9-0 ... T Quinn 17
13 3 SUNSHINE BOY 20 E Dunlop 9-0 ... G Carter 2
14 0 TELECASTER 17 C Egerton 9-0 ... Sophie Mitchell 12
15 0 AN SMEARDUBH 8 M Ryan 8-9 ... P McCabe 4
16 CHARMANOVA B Millman 8-9 ... Dean McKeown 8
17 5 HAPPY LANDING 8 E Wheeler 8-9 ... S Carson (5) 15
18 0- RIVENDELL 231 A Newcombe 8-9 ... J Quinn 13

9-2 Shaylan, 11-2 Compatriot, 6-1 Haymaker, Middelkerke, 7-1 End Of Story, 8-1 Craggy Mountain, Sunshine Boy, 12-1 others



8.00 ORB HANDICAP (£2,540: 1m 2f 7yd) (22)

[illegible]

Direct Route leads British challenge

DIRECT ROUTE heads the British raiding party on the opening day of the Punchestown Festival. He will be ridden by Norman Williamson as he aims for a second grade one win of the month in the BMW Chase.

Howard Johnson's stable star landed the Mumm Melling Chase at Aintree by a neck from Mulligan and is bidding to repeat last year's feat of scoring at both Liverpool and Punchestown.

Also in a six-runner field for the two-mile event are the Nicky Henderson-trained Big Matt (Mick Fitzgerald), Charlie Mann's Celibate (Richard Dunwoody) and Paul Nicholls's Green Green Desert (Joe Tizzard).

Space Trucker, winner of the Grand Annual Handicap Chase at the Cheltenham Festival, had Hill Society 4½ lengths back in third when following up at Fairyhouse at the start of the month but will do well to confirm superiority on 18lb worse terms.

Henderson's Bacchanal (Fitzgerald) is Britain's only representative in the the Country Pride Champion Novice Hurdle, the day's other grade one event. Last month's wide-margin Chepstow winner takes on Noel Meade's recent Fairyhouse scorer Cardinal Hill in a field of five. The latter, lying second when previously unseating two out in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham, appears the one to beat.

Ferdy Murphy also saddles two horses on the first day of a Festival meeting which has been extended to four days this year. He runs Ardrina in the Rohcon Construction Handicap Chase and Native Legend in the Corporate Sport and Leisure Flat Race.

PUNCHESTOWN FESTIVAL

GOING: SOFT — SIS

3.15 COUNTRY PRIDE CHAMPION NOVICE HURDLE (Grade I: £32,860: 2m) (5 runners)

1 -11163 DANCE SO SUITE 22 (D,F,G,S) (J Gulkin) E O'Grady 7-12-0 ... N Williamson 61
2 213113 FADOUDAL DU COCHET 58 (D,S) (A O'Reilly) A L Moore 6-12-0 ... C O'Dwyer –
[illegible]

3.50 BMW CHASE (Grade I: £34,450: 2m) (6 runners)

[illegible]

Ginola humbled by his honour

PFA Player of the Year holds award in high regard, says **Matt Dickinson**

Flying back into Paris on holiday recently, David Ginola was greeted by a porter. "So what," the man inquired, "are you up to now you've retired from football?" He will get his answer this morning when he sees Ginola, dressed in a tuxedo and wearing a look of vindication, draped across his morning paper.

A mobbing by journalists from France came quickly yesterday on the back of Ginola's success in being voted the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year.

A less charming and media-aware person than the Tottenham Hotspur winger might have told them all to disappear back down the Channel Tunnel. After all, the press have hardly been waging a campaign for him to be restored to the national team since his exile began in 1993.

The opportunity to re-establish himself in his home country was too good to miss, however, so the 32-year-old sat and talked, although only, of course, after George Graham had allowed him to leave training. Player of the Year or not, no one slacks when Graham is their manager.

Even a man as accustomed to the glare of television cameras, studio lights and flashbulbs seemed somewhat overwhelmed by the avalanche of interest yesterday. "It is a great honour," he kept repeating, but what soon became obvious was that the recognition of his fellow players, as opposed to that of the media, had genuinely touched him.

Not because he has anything against the written press, but because it shattered the notion that he was regarded within football as a bit of a foreign sissy, a skilful player who could not cope with being kicked in the air, a man too worried about his hair to throw himself into tackles.

The attacks came most notably during Tottenham's long-running battles with Wimbledon this season, when Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, repeatedly accused Ginola of diving.

Only this Saturday, the Frenchman was suffering more gibes when Steve Lomas mocked the Spurs players for trying to start a fight. "Half of them would have bottled out anyway," the West Ham United player said, and it was clear which half he thought Ginola fell into.

But far from becoming embittered by the provocation, Ginola has been spurred into some of the best performances of his career and will figure more than once in the shortlist for goal of the season. His performance in the Worthington Cup final was far from memorable, but in distracting two Leicester City players, he stuck to his task. He has pleased Graham and there are few harder tasks than that.

"Everyone loves controversy, so they talk about an incident like Saturday," Ginola said. "But they do not notice that Moncur also said I was a great player. I am sure even players from Wimbledon voted for me. That is why this award means so much because it has come from the players.

"With journalists, you do interviews with them, you get to know them, so it is maybe not so impartial. But with the players, they vote from all the divisions so they don't know me. They have either voted for me because they have played against me, or just because they have seen me on the television. That gives me a really great feeling."

It is not the first time that Ginola has won such an award. He won the equivalent in France when he was with Paris Saint-Germain in 1993-94 and received an honour arguably as great as any this season when Johan Cruyff declared him the best player in the world.

As well as the self-promotion that will come with the trophy, and a possible pay rise from his many sponsors, Ginola will be able to use the publicity to project the charitable causes for which he works. As an ambassador for the Red Cross campaigning against landmines, he is helping to set up a match at White Hart Lane on May 19 to raise money for Kosovo refugees.

He will also hope that it helps his own cause when it comes to sitting down with his main employers this summer and negotiating a new contract. He has two years left on his present deal and likes London enough after the "small-village mentality" of Newcastle to seek an extension.

"If I am not certain I am wanted, then I will go straight away," he said in an interview recently. His fellow professionals have declared their feelings. Now it is up to Graham and Alan Sugar to do the same.



Morning glory: Ginola lets his team-mates know who is No 1 as he arrives at Tottenham Hotspur's training ground in Chigwell yesterday, after claiming the PFA Footballer of the Year award the previous night. Photograph: Max Nash

PFA AWARDS

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

D Ginola (Tottenham Hotspur)

Runner-up: D Yorke (Manchester United). **Third:** E Petit (Arsenal). **Also short-listed:** D Beckham (Manchester United), D Bergkamp (Arsenal), R Keane (Manchester United)

YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR

N Anelka (Arsenal)

Runner-up: M Owen (Liverpool). **Third:** H Kewell (Leeds United). **Also short-listed:** L Bowyer (Leeds United), L Hendrie (Aston Villa), A Smith (Leeds United)

DIVISIONAL TEAMS

PREMIERSHIP: N Martyn (Leeds United), G Neville (Manchester United), D Irwin (Manchester United), P Vieira (Arsenal), S Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur), J Stam (Manchester United), D Beckham (Manchester United), D Yorke (Manchester United), N Anelka (Arsenal), E Petit (Arsenal), D Ginola (Tottenham Hotspur).

FIRST DIVISION: R Wright (Ipswich Town), G Rowett (Birmingham City), M Gray (Sunderland), K Dyer (Ipswich Town), P Butler (Sunderland), M Venus (Ipswich Town), D Moore (Bradford City), P Frandsen (Bolton Wanderers), L Clark (Sunderland), L Hughes (West Bromwich Albion), N Quinn (Sunderland), A Johnston (Sunderland)

SECOND DIVISION: M Taylor (Fulham), S Finnan (Fulham), R Brevett (Fulham), J Vincent (Bournemouth), S Gregan (Preston North End), S Davis (Burnley), C Coleman (Fulham), G Kavanagh (Stoke City), D Wrack (Walsall), M Stein (Bournemouth), G Horsfield (Fulham), S Robinson (Bournemouth).

THIRD DIVISION: J Hallworth (Cardiff City), M Delaney (Cardiff City), P Gibbs (Plymouth Argyle), J Fowler (Cardiff City), C Hope (Scunthorpe United), H Hreidarsson (Brentford), J Minton (Brighton and Hove Albion), J Forrester (Scunthorpe United), M Butler (Cambridge United), P Evans (Shrewsbury Town), S Davies (Peterborough United), M Etherington (Peterborough United)

Coote to benefit from Irish exodus

By George Caulkin

A VERY fine line separates bold experimentation from complete exasperation and the Northern Ireland manager, Lawrie McMenemy, has taken a large stride over it. With 11 players withdrawing from the international against Canada at Windsor Park tonight, much scope for manoeuvre has already been curtailed. As a matter of urgency, would any fit male contact the Irish Football Association.

James Quinn, the West Bromwich Albion striker, became the eighth member of McMenemy's full squad to send his apologies yesterday, joining the ailing Keith Gillespie, Neil Lennon, Damien Johnson, Steve Morrow and Alan Fettis. Stephen Robinson and Peter Kennedy have been allowed to remain with their clubs, while three players have stood down from the stand-by list.

As a consequence, a brave face and a fresh face were revealed by McMenemy yesterday, both designed to deflect concern over a Euro 2000 qualifying campaign that has descended into farce. A combination of Quinn's absence and a dearth of goals — three in the past five games — ensure a newish attacking partnership. Adrian Coote, of Norwich City, a recent graduate from the under-21 team, makes his debut alongside the lingering Iain Dowie.

"We all know that we need goals," McMenemy said. "I want to see how people like Adrian Coote react to the bigger stage. I want to see if there are any positives from him that might help us in our three remaining games."

The Reading defender, Barry Hunter, returns to international football after a sapping two-year battle against injury.

The contrast with Canada, ranked 92nd in the world, could not be more striking. While their coach, Holger Osieck, was able to select a young, 18-man squad — the majority of whom are based in England, Scotland or Ireland — only Carlo Corrazin, of Northampton Town, is absent with injury.

NORTHERN IRELAND (possible, 4-4-2): **M Taylor** (Fulham) — **D Patterson** (Dundee United), **M Williams** (Chesterfield), **B Hunter** (Reading), **K Horlock** (Manchester City) — **D Sonner** (Sheffield Wednesday), **S Lomas** (West Ham United), **P Mulryne** (Norwich City), **J McCarthy** (Birmingham City) — **I Dowie** (Queens Park Rangers), **A Coote** (Norwich City)

CANADA (possible, 4-4-2): **C Forrest** (West Ham United) — **P Fenwick** (Greenock Morton), **M Watson** (Oxford United), **J de Vos** (Dundee United), **B Parker** (Feyenoord) — **N Dasovic** (St Johnstone), **J Bent** (Colorado Rapids), **M Bircham** (Millwall), **J Brennan** (Bristol City) — **P Peschisolido** (Fulham), **G Kusch** (RAEC Mons).

Injuries haunt Brown's build-up

By Kevin McCarra

WHAT benefit can Scotland gain from the match with Germany in Bremen tomorrow? "We hope to prove the strength in depth of our squad," Craig Brown, the manager, said. Given his choice of reactions, he preferred to be wry. The alternative would have been exasperation. It is normal for Scotland to find their possibilities whittled away, but the present circumstances threaten to reduce them to sawdust.

When naming his party an entire possible team, with a couple of substitutes to spare, was unavailable through injury. Now, the survivors are being picked off. Craig Burley, Matt Elliott, David Hopkin, Neil McCann and Jackie McNamara did not survive the weekend matches for their clubs and all withdrew yesterday. Plausible replacements are as scarce as men in husky health and Brown made just one addition to the squad.

The eligibility of Colin Cameron, of Heart of Midlothian, may owe something to the fact that he has only lately returned after missing most of this season with a persistent pelvic strain.

The ministrations of a French osteopath brought about his recovery, but the midfield player had not expected promotion to his country's colours and is at present without his passport. It has been submitted with an application for the visa that he will need to visit in-laws in the Middle East this summer. In addition to collecting his boots from Tynecastle, he also had to acquire a temporary passport yesterday morning.

It is Brown's intention to keep a core of experience in the team and, where the starting line-up is concerned, he will limit the number of experiments. Neither of the uncapped goalkeepers, Alan Main and Robert Douglas, is expected to make his debut since Brown feels that Neil Sullivan would benefit from a prolonged, hair-raising exposure to the Germans.

There are, however, certain changes that the manager is bound to make. Last month, Scotland lost a European championship qualifying tie to the Czech Republic, their first defeat at home in a championship match since 1987. The status quo cannot survive untouched in such circumstances.

Tomorrow, Brown will give Don Hutchison, of Everton, his first full appearance for Scotland, as a forward.

Umbro takeover puts cloud over £15m Shearer deal

By Our Sports Staff

A TAKEOVER of Umbro, the sports manufacturer, has placed a question mark over the Manchester-based company's multimillion-pound boot and clothing deals with Alan Shearer and Michael Owen, which were signed only last year. Advisers acting for both players are understood to be seeking clarification over the buyout.

After months of speculation over its future and a financial restructuring, Umbro confirmed yesterday that it had been bought for £90 million by Doughty Hanson, an independent fund management company. The new owner is expected to continue to develop Umbro as a football brand.

Shearer, the Newcastle United and England captain, still has another 13 years left to run on his deal, which was agreed last season for £15 million, while Owen, the Liverpool striker, has a five-year deal worth £5 million, but both are believed to want to talk to the new owner because of concerns over changing personnel. In signing for Umbro, the pair rejected bigger financial offers from Nike and adidas, among others, who will monitor the situation closely.

The takeover is not expected to affect Umbro's £50 million five-year agreement with the Football Association to provide the England kit, or their similar relationship with Manchester United. Staff at Umbro have yet to be told if they are to maintain their positions but the new management will include Peter McGuigan, a former president of Reebok, Mark Corbidge, former financial director of Newcastle United, and Chris Ronnie, who previously worked for Diadora.

Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, will have to make do without Roy Keane and several other key personnel for the international against Sweden in Dublin tomorrow.

McCarthy still does not know if there is anything worth making plans for, in any case, as Uefa has formed a task force to deal with the impact of conflict in Serbia on the European championship.

Uefa has told the Football Association of Ireland that it will not make a ruling until May 11 on the fate of the group eight qualifying games against Yugoslavia and Macedonia, both scheduled to take place in Dublin in early June.

McCarthy and his squad have no option but to get on with preparations for something that may not even happen. The manager admitted: "We just don't know what is going to happen in June."

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

Richards takes office

■ DAVE RICHARDS, the Sheffield Wednesday chairman, was installed as the chairman of the FA Premier League yesterday. His appointment came after a meeting of the chairmen from the Premier League's 20 clubs. Richards had been acting chairman since the enforced resignations of Sir John Quinton, the former chairman, and Peter Leaver, the former chief executive, who left after agreeing a deal concerning television rights without the consultation of the clubs.

■ Newcastle United are vying with Middlesbrough for the signature of Oleg Luzhny, the Dynamo Kiev defender. A Newcastle delegation, including Ruud Gullit, the manager, was in London yesterday negotiating personal terms with the Ukraine captain. Luzhny has already spoken to Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, about a possible move.

■ Liverpool have initiated moves, to bring Vladimir Smicer, the Czech Republic international, to Anfield. Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, has targeted Smicer, who plays for Lens, as a replacement for Steve McManaman, who will join Real Madrid at the end of the season.

■ Mike Dean, the referee, has reported Bristol City to the Football Association after the violent scenes that marred the end of their Nationwide League first division home defeat by Birmingham City on Saturday. Dean claims that both he and his two assistants were hit by coins thrown from the home fans' end as they left the pitch.

Success of Jeffers provides incentive for latest crop

By Nick Szczepanik



LAST season Francis Jeffers played in the Everton team that won *The Times* FA Youth Cup, beating Blackburn Rovers in the two-leg final. Today he is in Hungary with the full England squad. Tonight four teams will contest the second legs of the Youth Cup semi-finals and their players will be dreaming of following Jeffers's lead.

One player who would appear to have a good chance of emulating Jeffers one day is Gary McSheffrey, of Coventry City, who play Newcastle United at Highfield Road tonight. In the first leg at St James' Park last week, McSheffrey, 16, who lives locally, scored a hat-trick as Coventry beat the home side 4-0.

"He's one of those boys who can catch fire at any moment and fortunately he did in the first leg," Richard Money, Coventry's academy director, said. The fourth was scored by Craig Strachan, son of the City manager, Gordon.

Twelve months ago Jeffers had already made an appearance as a substitute in the FA Carling Premiership. McSheffrey has been on the fringe of Strachan's first-team squad, along with Chris Kirkland and Gerry Mooney, who both missed the first leg but are in the reckoning for the game, which will be a formality, surely.

"We have to make sure we approach the game in the right manner," Money said. "Football has a nasty habit of kicking you in the teeth." That would be some kick for a team holding a four-goal advantage. "We were delighted. It was much more than we expected, but as the game went on, we deserved it."

The other likely finalists are West Ham United, who take a 3-0 lead over Everton to Goodison Park tonight. The scorers in the first leg at Upton Park included two graduates of their Australian academies, Michael Ferrante and Richard Garcia, while Joe Cole, who is widely regarded as the most promising teenager in the country, has played several first-team games.

"I've seen West Ham a couple of times, and we've had Everton watched," Money said, showing how seriously clubs take this competition. "We think they're both good teams."

Christopher Irvine meets the Broncos chairman out to buck the trend

Branson's flight of fancy fails to lift off

SOME fathers buy their sons a Scalextric set; Richard Branson bought his boy London Broncos. There will be no prouder figure in the royal box at Wembley on Saturday than Branson Jr as dad leads out his team for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final.

The cameras will flash, Branson will blush accordingly and the Broncos, in branded red shirts like tins of Virgin cola, will get dented and bashed by the bigger Leeds Rhinos forwards. But, who knows, they may get the chance to douse their famous chairman in celebratory champagne at the end.

"It's a dream come true, an historic day for rugby league in the South, and we're going to enjoy it to the full. I'm conscious that many people are willing the team on," Branson said. The world's most incorrigible self-publicist could not have scripted it better.

In triumph or disaster, you fancy that Branson's impenetrable grin will remain fixed. How can he lose? He has been beaten in a balloon race already this year but come up smiling, as he always does. The Broncos have gone farther than anyone dared hope, raised a flag for rugby league in the South, and will have every "neutral" behind them at Wembley.

Unlike other club owners, Branson, in his mildly eccentric but endearing way, talked this week about "supporting the underdog". Spoken like a man of the people. Yet where all this is leading the Broncos is hard to fathom. Branson's 80 per cent co-ownership has underwritten the club's debt but fails to translate into the sums necessary to drive this small corner of his empire forward in the true sense. The Broncos, after all, boast a few Portakabins at the on-hire Stoop Memorial Ground and not much besides.

Branson has no immediate plans to increase his commitment. Having reached giddier heights with the Broncos than he did during his helium-powered flights, there may be an argument for baling out sooner rather than later. London are unlikely to enjoy again the publicity that they are getting now and there is the precedent of Branson withdrawing his money from Crystal Palace after they lost to Manchester United in the 1990 FA Cup Final replay.

> 'Rugby league is going onwards and upwards'

Football was not Branson's game. Rugby league, he insisted, is, although if Sam Branson had fancied basketball it is arguable that London Towers would have been the beneficiaries. "To me, rugby league is the most spectacular sport to watch," Branson said. "Unlike football, it is far from its peak.

"I really feel it is going onwards and upwards, particularly with the television agreement with BSkyB. More and more people are watching and getting into the sport. I was converted through my family and it's a great family spectacle."

That has not been the experience since London memorably beat Castleford Tigers in the semi-final last month. The aggregate attendance for the three home matches leading up to Wembley has been a feeble 9,500, which is below the average last season. Bad marketing, indifference, poor results, whatever . . . something, somewhere, has gone wrong.

Take the following from a female Broncos supporter writing in *Rugby League Express* yesterday: "With the exception of posters in a dozen or so shops around Twickenham and a very uninspiring newspaper advert, no visible marketing to new fans has gone on since the semi-final. Existing fans have been bombarded by shoddy, second-rate promotions, about squeezing every penny from faithful supporters," she wrote.

Despite the cheerleaders, music and inflatable cola cans on match days, when it comes to hustling more people though the gates, the Broncos have failed to come up to scratch. Even sales for Wembley were put into the hands of Harlequins, the Broncos' landlords, who have grasped the chance to issue tickets with their own publicity material.

None of this should detract from London's achievement. However, the inevitable anticlimax after Wembley and the struggle to get back into the play-off places after four successive defeats in the JJB Super League will test whether the new-found support on Saturday is more than a one-day loyalty. The size of the crowd against Castleford on May 9 will be watched with interest.

For Branson, who was talked through the final few minutes of the semi-final on a mobile telephone at his island retreat in the Caribbean, the experience was "better than whale-watching". As to those who see a London victory as a case of flying pig-watching, Branson could end up with his trademark last laugh. "We're greedy. We'll want to go back to Wembley next year," he said. Not quite, as the 2000 final will be in Edinburgh. But you know what he means.



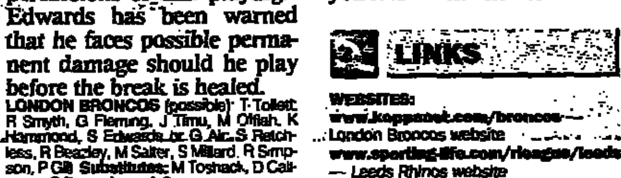
Branson's devotion to the Broncos has not been matched at the turnstiles in the build-up to the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final

Edwards forced to wait

SHAUN EDWARDS intends to play in a record eleventh Silk Cut Challenge Cup final, but Dan Stains, the London Broncos coach, is erring on the side of caution regarding his captain's broken thumb (Christopher Irvine writes).

Stains yesterday named both Edwards and Glen Air at scrum half for Saturday. "We will make a decision when we know more about Shaun's injury on Wednesday or Thursday," Stains said. "We'll be guided by the consultant and what he says about the repercussions of him playing." Edwards has been warned that he faces possible permanent damage should he play before the break is healed.

LONDON BRONCOS (possible): T Tollett; R Smyth, G Fleming, J Timu, M Offiah, K Hammond, S Edwards or G Air, S Retchless, R Beazley, M Salter, S Millard, R Simpson, P Gill. **Substitutes:** M Toshack, D Callaway, C Ryan, Air or A Spencer



WEBSITES:
www.koppanet.com/broncos — London Broncos website
www.sporting-life.com/rleague/leeds — Leeds Rhinos website

RUGBY UNION

Gloucester go for power of Paramore

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BEDFORD'S unanimity of spirit in difficult circumstances has been one of the heartwarming features of this season, but the first crack appeared in their wall yesterday when Junior Paramore signed a three-year contract with Gloucester. Where the Samoan has gone, will others, such as Scott Murray, be far behind?

Paramore, 30, is the first of a half-dozen signings that Gloucester hope to make within the next month to bolster the ambition of Tom Walkinshaw, their chairman, for a place among England's leading clubs next season. Since the existing squad is to be reduced from 33 to 28 at the same time, it follows that ten players could follow Scott Benton on to the transfer list.

Paramore, a back-row forward who has, since 1996, been part of Bedford's rise to the first division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, will join Terry Fanolua, his cousin, at Kingsholm and will be available to them from the first day of the season. A neck operation that is due to be performed next Tuesday prevents Paramore concluding this campaign with Bedford and from joining Western Samoa in the Pacific Rim tournament next month and he has been ruled out, therefore, of his country's World Cup squad. Fanolua, a centre, has a ligament injury and could find himself in the same situation.

Gloucester will not qualify for Europe next season, but Harlequins can after their victory over Saracens on Sunday. Zinzan Brooke, their player-coach, who was carried off with a neck injury, was released from hospital after X-rays and was at the Stoop Memorial Ground yesterday, albeit suffering from discomfort similar to that created by a whiplash injury.

The club will talk with Will Carling, the former England captain, about an extension of his playing career when his short-term, 14-week contract concludes next month. "Will is enjoying his rugby and we will see whether he wants to go on and whether we want him to do so," John Gallagher, the director of rugby, said.

Gareth Llewellyn, the Harlequins lock and Wales's most-capped forward, is likely to be called into the Wales party to tour Argentina next month. Llewellyn, 30, who has not played international rugby since the defeat by England last season, is on standby to replace Ian Gough, of Pontypridd, who broke his arm at the weekend.

Wales will take three uncapped players — Ian Boobyer, Rhodri Jones and Richard Arnold — on the tour, although Graham Henry, the coach, has decided against taking several of his under-21 squad, who pay their own visit to Argentina later in the summer. "We decided that all 37 should be genuine contenders for a place in the World Cup squad," Henry said.

Ireland, who tour Australia next month, will be without Conor McGuinness, the St Mary's College scrum half. He needs an operation on his left foot.

Carling: holding talks

WALES TOUR SQUAD: Backs: S Howarth (Sale), K Morgan (Pontypridd), M Robinson (Swansea), N Walne (Richmond), D James (Pontypridd), G Thomas (Cardiff), N Boobyer (Llanelli), A Bateman (Richmond), L Davies (Cardiff), S Gibbs (Swansea), M Taylor (Swansea), N Jenkins (Pontypridd), S Jones (Llanelli), A Thomas (Swansea), R Howley (Cardiff), R Jones (Swansea), D Llewellyn (Ebbw Vale). **Forwards:** P Rogers (London Irish), A Lewis (Cardiff), D Morris (Swansea), B Evans (Swansea), D Young (Cardiff), C Anthony (Swansea), G Jenkins (Swansea), J Humphreys (Cardiff), C Quinnell (Richmond), I Gough (Pontypridd), C Wyatt (Llanelli), M Voyle (Llanelli), A Moore (Swansea), S Quinnell (Llanelli), C Charvis (Swansea), B Sinkinson (Neath), G Lewis (Pontypridd), R Arnold (Newcastle), M Williams (Pontypridd), I Boobyer (Llanelli)

ITINERARY: May 29: v Buenos Aires; June 1: v Tucuman, June 5: v Argentina (Buenos Aires), June 8: v Rosario, June 12: v Argentina (Buenos Aires)

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

SPANISH LEAGUE: Atlético Madrid 1 Barcelona 1
FRENCH LEAGUE: Lyons 1 Rennes 2

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 3 Cleveland 2; Baltimore 10 Oakland 11, New York Yankees 4 Toronto 3 (11 inns), Chicago White Sox 4 Detroit 9, Tampa Bay 4 Seattle 6, Minnesota 5 Texas 9. **Postponed:** Kansas City v Anaheim.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinnati 7 Houston 6, Montreal 6 Philadelphia 8, Pittsburgh 2 Milwaukee 4; Chicago Cubs 8 New York Mets 4, Florida 1 Atlanta 5, San Francisco 7 Colorado 6, San Diego 3 Arizona 5 (11 inns); Los Angeles 4 St Louis 6

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Miami 80 New York 82; Phoenix 95 Houston 71, Philadelphia 103 Orlando 86, Utah 98 Seattle 81, New Jersey 120 Indiana 98, Portland 100 Minnesota 84; Atlanta 85 Milwaukee 70; Boston 113 Washington 84, Toronto 83 Detroit 91

CRICKET

One-day international
West Indies v Australia
BRIDGETOWN (Australia won toss): West Indies beat Australia by eight wickets on reduced target

AUSTRALIA

M E Waugh b King	26
†A C Gilchrist c Ambrose b Dillon	6
R T Ponting c Williams b Dillon	1
D S Lehmann c Jacobs b Ambrose	8
*S R Waugh c Jacobs b King	30
M G Bevan run out	34
S Lee b King	47
T M Moody not out	50
B P Julian b Arthurton	20
S K Warne run out	20
D W Fleming not out	0
Extras (lb 5, w 3, nb 2)	10
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	**252**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-8, 3-29, 4-63, 5-80, 6-119, 7-175, 8-200, 9-250.
BOWLING: Ambrose 9-1-51-1, Dillon 10-2-36-2; King 9-0-59-3, Perry 5-0-22-0; Bryan 6-2-36-0, Arthurton 9-0-43-1

WEST INDIES

S L Campbell c Gilchrist b Bevan	62
†R D Jacobs c M E Waugh b S R Waugh	54
*J C Adams not out	37
S Chanderpaul not out	31
Extras (b 2, lb 2, w 8, nb 1)	13
Total (2 wkts, 37 overs)	**197**

S C Williams, K L T Arthurton, N O Perry, H R Bryan, C E L Ambrose, M Dillon and R D King did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-99, 2-153
BOWLING: Fleming 7-0-25-0, M E Waugh 4-0-20-0; Moody 4-0-29-0; Warne 8-3-26-0, Lee 2-0-20-0, S R Waugh 3-0-17-1, Bevan 5-0-23-1; Julian 4-0-31-0.
Umpires: B Morgan and E A Nicholls.

EQUESTRIANISM

SAUMUR THREE-DAY-EVENT: 1, Canoca (F Chaves Ramos, Por) 81.0; 2, Mister Maon (A Nicholson, NZ) 84.0, 3, Cool 'n Breezy (F Magni, It) 85.0. **Other placings:** 9, River Dragon (W Fox-Pitt, GB) 103.0; 16, Western Reef (W Fox-Pitt, GB) 130.0

GOLF

GREENSBORO, North Carolina: Greater Greensboro Classic: Leading final scores (United States unless stated): **265:** J Parnevik (Swe) 65, 63, 67, 70. **267:** J Furyk 67, 63, 68, 69. **273:** J Maggert 68, 62, 75, 68. **274:** D Hart 66, 65, 71, 72. **275:** T Lehman 69, 68, 69, 69. **276:** P Stankowski 70, 69, 71, 66, K Triplett 69, 68, 71, 68. **277:** T Dodds (Nam) 71, 65, 72, 69. **278:** V Singh (Fiji) 70, 70, 70, 68; P Blackmar 71, 69, 70, 68, J L Lewis 70, 65, 74, 69.
STOCKBRIDGE, Georgia: Chick-Fil-A Charity championship: Leading final scores (United States unless stated): **204:** R Hetherington (Aus) 67, 67, 70; L Kane (Can) 67, 68, 69. **205:** A Sorenstam (Swe) 70, 69, 66, J Bartholomew 74, 63, 68, K Webb (Aus) 70, 67, 68. **206:** K Robbins 66, 73, 67, R Jones 69, 69, 68, B Mucha 72, 62, 72. **207:** Mi Hyun Kim (S Kor) 69,65,73, L Spalding 66,68,73. **208:** D Kileen 70,66,72; C Figg-Currier 69,67,72; S Steinhauer 68,67,73; M Hjorth (Swe) 65,69,74.

HOCKEY

MILTON KEYNES: RAF Careers Youth Cup: Finals: Under-18: Repton 2 Millfield 2 (Millfield won 3-2 on penalty strokes); **Under-16:** Havant HC 0 Simon Langton GS 1; **Under-14:** Millfield 5 Dean Close School 1

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Stanley Cup play-offs: Eastern Conference: Pittsburgh 4 New Jersey 2 (Pittsburgh leads best-of-seven series 2-1). Buffalo 3 Ottawa 0 (Buffalo leads best-of-seven series 3-0). **Western Conference:** St Louis 4 Phoenix 4 (Phoenix leads best-of-seven series 2-1), Anaheim 2 Detroit 4 (Detroit leads best-of-seven series 3-0). Edmonton 2 Dallas 3 (Dallas leads best-of-seven series 3-0).

REAL TENNIS

HAMPTON COURT: Guy Salmon women's world championship: Doubles: Semi-finals: P Lumley (GB) and S Haswell (GB) bt K Leeming (Aus) and L Ronaldson (GB) 6-3, 6-1; S Jones (GB) and A Garside (GB) bt F Ducher (Aus) and C Cornwallis (GB) 3-6 6-4 6-5. **Final:** Lumley and Haswell bt Jones and Garside 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB SUPER LEAGUE: Sheffield 22 Wakefield 12
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Sydney City 42 Canterbury 6.

SHOOTING

BISLEY: Purples Match: 1, Surrey A 1165, 2, Wandsworth 1165, 3, Sussex A 1162. **Top score:** D Curtis (London University) 149.21.

SNOOKER

THE CRUCIBLE, Sheffield: Embassy world championship: Second round: R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt J Perry (Eng) 13-8; S Lee (Eng) leads A McManus (Scot) 11-5.

SQUASH

GERMERING OPEN: Semi-finals: S Schoene (Ger) bt V Botwright (Eng) 6-9, 9-3, 9-3, 9-6; R Grinham (Aus) bt S Shabana (Egy) 9-5, 9-0, 9-2. **Final:** Grinham bt Schoene 9-2, 5-9, 10-8, 9-7.
ATHENS: Greek Open: Men: Quarter-finals: M Heath (Scot) bt P Tzamaloukas (Gr) 9-2, 9-4, 9-7, G Wilson (NZ) bt F Kalaitzis (Gr) wo, E McAlpine (GB) bt M Ioannou (Cyp) 9-1, 9-0, 9-1, M Chaloner (GB) bt N Moustrofis (Gr) 9-6, 9-6, 9-0. **Semi-finals:** Heath bt Wilson 9-7, 9-4, 9-6; Chaloner bt McAlpine 9-5, 9-6, 9-0. **Final:** Chaloner bt Heath 10-8, 3-9, 9-3, 3-9, 9-3. **Women: Quarter-finals:** F Geaves (GB) bt L Christopoulou (Gr) 9-1, 9-0, 9-2; V Karasava (Cyp) bt M Deligianneki (Gr) 9-0, 9-3, 9-1; I Pochoda (US) bt Z Tzamaloukа (Gr) 9-3, 9-2, 9-1, J Martin (GB) bt A Kangalou (Gr) 9-0, 9-7, 9-3. **Semi-finals:** Geaves bt Karasava 9-2, 9-5, 9-1. Martin bt Pochoda 9-7, 9-0, 9-7. **Final:** Geaves bt Martin 9-7, 7-9, 9-2, 9-6

TENNIS

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida: Clay court championships: Final: M Norman (Swe) bt G Canas 6-0, 6-3 (Arg)
MUNICH: BMW Open: Men: First round: A Berasategui (Sp) bt M Rosset (Switz) 2-6, 6-3, 6-1; A Clement (Fr) bt J Siemerink (Neth) 6-4, 6-4; B Karbacher (Ger) bt R Schuttler (Ger) 7-6, 6-4; A Voinea (Rom) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-4, 6-2; M Kohlmann (Ger) bt J van Lottum (Neth) 7-5, 6-4.
PRAGUE: Czech Open: Men: First round: F Meligeni (Br) bt M Damm (Cz) 6-2, 6-1, A Di Pasquale (Fr) bt J Knippschild (Ger) 6-3, 6-0

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

International match
Northern Ireland v Canada (at Windsor Park, 8.0)

Under-21 international matches
Germany v Scotland (at Meppen, 7.15)
Hungary v England (at Ferencvaros Stadium, 5.0)
Ireland v Sweden (at Birr Town FC, 4.0)

Nationwide League
First division
Crewe v Bristol City (7.45)
Port Vale v Watford (7.45)
Second division
Bristol Rovers v Millwall (7.45)
Colchester v Bournemouth (7.45)
Luton v Chesterfield (7.45)
Macclesfield v Stoke (7.45)
Notts County v Wycombe (7.45)
Wigan v Lincoln (7.45)
York v Blackpool (7.45)
Third division
Darlington v Brentford (7.45)
Hartlepool v Leyton Orient
Mansfield v Exeter (7.45)
Rochdale v Cambridge Utd (7.45)
Rotherham v Barnet (7.45)
Halifax v Scunthorpe (7.45)
Nationwide Conference
Northwich v Cheltenham (7.45)
Yeovil v Morecambe (7.45)

Scottish League
First division
Clydebank v Ayr

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Burton Albion v Tamworth, Hastings v Crawley (7.45). **Southern division:** Brackley Town v Ashford, Fisher London v Tonbridge Angels, Fleet Town v Raunds Town; Folkestone Invicta v Margate; Newport (IoW) v Bashley. **Midland division:** Bloxwich Town v Wisbech Town, Cinderford v Stourbridge, Hinckley Utd v RC Warwick, Redditch v Evesham, Shepshed D v Bulkenall
DR MARTENS CUP: Final, second leg: Sutton Coldfield v Cambridge City
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Frickley v Altrincham; Gainsborough v Colwyn Bay. **First division:** Droylsden v Bradford Pk Ave, Great Harwood v Stocksbridge PS; Hucknall Town v Matlock Town; Radcliffe v Congleton, Albion v Gretna. **Challenge Cup: Final:** Stalybridge v Guiseley
RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Aylesbury; Bishop's Stortford v Hendon (at St Albans City FC); Boreham Wood v Chesham, Bromley v St Albans (7.45). Enfield v Sutton Utd, Heybridge v Aldershot, Slough v Gravesend. **First division:** Barton Rovers v Uxbridge, Bognor Regis v Leyton Pennant, Grays v Staines, Worthing v Leatherhead. **Second division:** Edgware v Wivenhoe; Hemel Hempstead v Harlow; Thame United v Wokingham; Tooting and Mitcham v Hungerford; Windsor and Eton v Chalfont St Peter. **Third division:** Corinthian-Casuals v Southall; Epsom and Ewell v Croydon Athletic; Flackwell Heath v Camberley Town
FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: First division: Northampton v Hartlepool (1.0)
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Oxford v Charlton; Portsmouth v Swindon.
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Bolton v Burnley (7.0); Manchester City v Tranmere (6.45), Oldham v Grimsby (7.0), Sheffield Wednesday v West Bromwich (7.0)
LEAGUE OF WALES: Connah's Quay v Cwmbran
FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bohemians v Derry (7.45); Finn Harps v Sligo
FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE UNDER 19: Play-offs, third round: Tottenham v Sheff Wed (11.0)
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Dunston Federation v Chester-le-Street; Easington v Morpeth Town
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Sheppey v Tunbridge Wells.
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Elmore v Taunton; Mangotsfield Utd v Yeovil TR; Melksham v Chippenham; Paulton R v Bridport.
MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Haringey v Buckingham Athletic; London Colney v Royston; Waltham Abbey v Milton Keynes
COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash v Merstham; Bedfont v Cobham, Chessington and Hook v Viking Sports; Westfield v Walton Casuals
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ely v Woodbridge Town; Halstead v Lowestoft, Histon v Diss, Maldon v Harwich and Parkeston; Newmarket v Fakenham, Sudbury Town v Wroxham; Warboys v Great Yarmouth
UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Desborough v Bourne, N Spencer v Ford Sports, S and L Corby v Wootton, St Neots v Spalding
UHLSPORT CUP: Final, second leg: Buckingham v Stotfold
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Hailsham v Ringmer; Horsham YMCA v Langney; Wick v Saltdean
INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell v Stapenhill, Halesowen H v Chasetown, Oldbury v Wednesfield; Rushall O v W Mid Police; Shifnal T v Bridgnorth, Willenhall v Rocester
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold Town v Buxton; Garforth Town v North Ferriby; Liversedge v Eccleshill; Selby v Denaby
NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries v Workington; Bootle v Newcastle Town; Cheadle v Glossop North End; Rossendale v Leek

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Maesteg v Rumney (7.0)

POOLS FORECAST

Pools no coupon, forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1	Charlton v Blackburn	1
2	Chelsea v Everton	1
3	Coventry v Wimbledon	1
4	Liverpool v Tottenham	X
5	Man Utd v Aston Villa	1
6	Newcastle v Middlsbro	X
7	Nott'm F v Sheff Wed	2
8	South'pton v Leicester	2
9	West Ham v Leeds	X

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

10	Barnsley v Watford	2
11	Bradford C v Oxford	1
12	Crewe v Portsmouth	1
13	Crystal P v Hudd'field	1
14	Grimsby v Tranmere	2
15	Norwich v Swindon	1
16	Port Vale v QPR	2
17	Sheff Utd v Bristol C	1
18	West Brom v Bury	1

SECOND DIVISION

19	Bristol R v Man City	2
20	Burnley v Fulham	1
21	*Chest'fld v North'pton	1
22	Colchester v Lincoln	1
23	Gillingham v Stoke	1
24	Luton v Macclesf'ld	1
25	Preston v Notts Co	1
26	Reading v Millwall	X
27	Walsall v Oldham	1
28	Wrexham v Wigan A	2
29	Wycombe v Blackpool	1
30	York v Bourn'm'th	1

THIRD DIVISION

31	Barnet v Southend	X
32	Brentford v Exeter	1
33	Cardiff v Scunthorpe	X
34	Darlington v Chester	1
35	Halifax v Scarboro	1
36	Hartlepool v Carlisle	1
37	Hull v Torquay	2
38	Peterboro v Leyton O	X
39	Plymouth v Camb'ge	2

BANK OF SCOTLAND PREMIER LEAGUE

40	Aberdn v St Johnst'ne	X
41	Dundee U v Dundee	2
42	*Hearts v Dunf'mline	1
43	Kilmarnck v Moth'well	1

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

44	Airdrie v Hamilton	1
45	Falkirk v Clydebank	1
46	Gr'nck Morton v Ayr	1
47	Raith v St Mirren	X
48	Stranraer v Hibernian	2

SECOND DIVISION

49	Alloa v East Fife	X

*Pools panel to adjudicate

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Liverpool, Newcastle, West Ham, Reading, Barnet, Cardiff, Peterborough, Aberdeen, Raith, Alloa.

BEST DRAWS: Newcastle, West Ham, Reading, Peterborough, Aberdeen

AWAYS: Sheffield Wednesday, Tranmere, Manchester City, Wigan, Cambridge

HOMES: Coventry, Bradford City, Norwich, West Brom, Colchester, Luton, Wycombe, Brentford, Darlington.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Bradford City, Norwich, Colchester, Wycombe, Darlington. **Aways:** Tranmere, Manchester City, Wigan. **Draws:** West Ham, Peterborough, Aberdeen

■ Vince Wright

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This was regarded as the hand of the tournament at the 1999 Prokom Software European Pairs Championships.

Dealer West **East-West Game** **Pairs**

North: ♠ K 8 6 ♡ J 3 2 ◇ 10 9 8 ♣ Q 8 7 3
West: ♠ A J ♡ Q 10 7 6 ◇ J 5 3 ♣ 9 5 4 2
East: ♠ 10 9 7 4 3 2 ♡ 9 8 5 ◇ K 7 6 ♣ 10
South: ♠ Q 5 ♡ A K 4 ◇ A Q 4 2 ♣ A K J 6

S	W	N	E
Kurka	*Glowacki*	*Svoboda*	*Szyborski*
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
2C	Pass	2D	Pass
2NT (1)	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: six of hearts.

(1) 23-24 balanced and not forcing – the only way the bidding can stop below game after an opening Two Clubs.

It seems to be all over when declarer rises with the jack of hearts. South has three heart tricks, four clubs, a spade and, finessing twice, three diamonds: eleven in all, enough to expect a 75% score or so, since many Wests would have preferred to lead a passive club (though double-dummy declarer can make the same number of tricks on a club lead but it is not easy).

Declarer won the jack of hearts at trick one and ran the ten of diamonds to West's jack. Glowacki switched to the jack of spades. We can see that this switch is harmless as the spades lie, but the Czech declarer didn't know the position. From his point of view, taking the second diamond finesse now risked the contract. If the nine of diamonds lost to the king the defence might have been able to take up to five spade tricks. Having been given a trick on the opening lead, declarer didn't want to take this chance. Instead, placing East with the ace of spades, he tried to endplay him to lead away from it.

He won the queen of spades, cashed four top clubs and two top hearts, and finally played ace and another diamond, hoping to drop the king or find East left with king and another diamond, and ace and another spade. He must have been shocked to see East play a spade back to West's ace for him to cash his long heart. That held declarer to nine tricks and a bottom score for North-South.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

FEAGUE
a. Worn out
b. To whip
c. A malicious tease

GAZOON
a. A squad
b. To keyhole-Kate
c. A two-masted ship

GROSET
a. To gossip
b. A brick pyramid
c. A gooseberry

FASCIATION
a. Bandaging
b. Disgust
c. Whipping

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

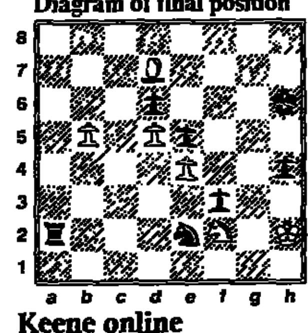
As part of the Hampstead chess celebrations grandmasters Mark Hebden and Keith Arkell contested a six-game match. This was won by Hebden by the score of 3½-2½.

White: Keith Arkell
Black: Mark Hebden
Challenge match
Hampstead 1999
King's Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	Nf3	g6
3	c4	Bg7
4	g3	0-0
5	Bg2	d6
6	0-0	Nbd7
7	d5	Nb6
8	Nbd2	Re8
9	e4	e6
10	Re1	a5
11	Rb1	Nfd7
12	Qc2	Nc5
13	Nb3	Nxb3
14	Qxb3	a4
15	Qd3	Nd7
16	Qc2	Nc5
17	Bg5	f6
18	Bd2	e5
19	Be3	f5
20	Nd2	Rf8
21	f3	f4
22	Bf2	Bh6
23	b4	axb3
24	axb3	fxg3
25	hxg3	Ra3
26	Qb2	Ra6
27	Qc2	Qg5
28	Nf1	Bd7
29	b4	Na4
30	c5	Bb5
31	cxd6	cxd6
32	Qc7	Qd8
33	Qxb7	Nc3
34	Bh3	Ra8
35	Ra1	Rb8
36	Qa7	Rxd3
37	Nh2	Rf8
38	Be6+	Kh8
39	Be3	Bxe3+
40	Rxe3	Ne2+
41	Kg2	Nd4
42	Rc3	Ra8
43	Qxa8	Qxa8
44	Rxa8	Rxa8
45	Ng4	h5
46	Nf2	Kg7
47	Rc7+	Kh6
48	Bd7	Be2
49	Rc1	Bf3+
50	Kf1	Ne2
51	Rb1	Nxg3+
52	Kg1	Ne2+
53	Kf1	Nc3
54	Re1	Ra2
55	Kg1	g5
56	Re3	Ne2+
57	Kh2	g4
58	Rxf3	gxf3
59	b5	h4

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the Saturday *Times* Weekend column.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

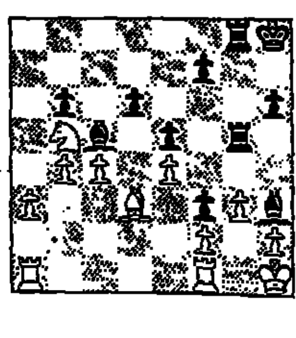
Final crosstable

	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Hebden	0	½	1	½	1	½	3½
Arkell	1	½	0	½	0	½	2½

(1 represents a win, ½ a draw, and 0 a loss)

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



Black to play. This position is from the game Miranda — Izeta, Rio de Janeiro 1999.

Black could capture the rook on f1 but White would recapture and the black kingside attack would be at an end. Does Black have anything better?

Solution on page 50

SNOOKER: MAVERICK PLAYS SAFE TO ADVANCE TO QUARTER-FINAL AGAINST PARROTT

O'Sullivan grows in confidence

By Phil Yates

THE tabloid journalists waited, camped in the front row of the interview room. What would Ronnie O'Sullivan say this time? Repeat his intention to retire, or maybe describe in great detail how depressed he continues to feel with the game and life in general?

"I'm a lot happier and getting more and more confident all the time," O'Sullivan said after completing a 13-8 victory over Joe Perry to earn a place in the quarter-finals of the Embassy world championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, yesterday.

Once again O'Sullivan's mood swings off the table proved as unpredictable as his form on it. "The practice I put in before the championship is beginning to pay off and, in phases, I'm starting to feel really good," he said. "I've got most of my troubles away now," he said.

O'Sullivan's upbeat approach was in stark contrast to the dejected stance that he adopted after a 10-3 win over Leo Fernandez in the first round. O'Sullivan often finds motivation difficult to generate and withdrew from two events earlier this season, the United Kingdom championship and German Masters, citing "physical and mental exhuastion". However, those who dismiss him as a realistic contender for the world title underestimate his innate skill.

Some of O'Sullivan's answers were clearly more considered, such as the respectful comments reserved for John Parrott, his quarter-final opponent. They have met on eight previous occasions and Parrott has prevailed six times, including a 13-4 landslide in the last 16 of the 1994 world championship. "John is a great player and one of the toughest there is to beat. I'll have to tighten up to stand any chance of beating him but I'm definitely feeling more comfortable with the surroundings here," O'Sullivan said.

In converting a 9-7 overnight lead over Perry, O'Sullivan eschewed risky showmanship in favour of a more workmanlike approach, although he did compile breaks of 72 and 42 in moving 12-8 ahead.



O'Sullivan: contender

Perry, who battled hard without ever quite threatening to repeat his surprise win over Steve Davis, led 62-9 in the 21st frame with only three reds remaining. O'Sullivan laid the snooker he needed on the last red, Perry failed to escape and O'Sullivan fashioned a 35 clearance to steal it on the black.

With Perry's departure, Nick Walker, the world No 71 from Chester, became the last unknown in the event but he also perished, beaten 13-7 by Mark Williams. The Welshman, who has already won the Irish Open, Welsh Open and Thailand Masters this season has matured into a fearsome player.

"I've got as good a shout as anyone left in the championship and I am sure that I'll never arrive here in a better frame of mind than this year," Williams, who won all four frames necessary in the concluding session, said. Williams advances to meet Ken Doherty, his conqueror in the semi-finals last year.

Stephen Hendry, six times the world champion, played himself into a position of strength entering his final session against James Wattana last night, while Stephen Lee, enjoying a commanding 11-5 advantage over Alan McManus, also appeared to be bound for the quarter-finals.

Wattana held Hendry at 7-7, spectacularly accounting for the twelfth frame with a 110 clearance, but with a vintage response to danger, Hendry won the closing two frames of the afternoon with contributions of 90 and 61 to afford himself some breathing space at 9-7.

LINKS

WEBSITES: www.embassysnooker.com — official tournament site.

TELEVISION: BBC2, 1.10, 3.30, 6.45, 11.20pm. BBC1, 2.30pm

Kevin Eason on the man who is too big for Formula One

Wurz unhappy to be cast as makeweight

He looks more like a basketball player than a racing driver, all gangly arms and endless legs that sprout from a pair of size 11 boots. In the world of Formula One, Alexander Wurz is a giant capable of looking down on almost everybody else in the pit lane, from his fellow drivers right down to Bernie Ecclestone, the sport's diminutive ringmaster.

But Wurz's bulk is jeopardising his place among the substantially smaller elite of motor racing. Every extra pound is weight that slows him and his Benetton down in a grand prix and the team's engineers are working hard to find ways to shed the excess before the third round of the world championship, the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola next weekend, in probably the most high-technology version of WeightWatchers ever recorded.

At the opening grand prix of 1999 in Australia, Wurz and his car weighed in at 20kg more than the Formula One minimum of 600kg. His engineers said that the penalty for that excess would be a second a lap more around the Albert Park circuit in Melbourne than Wurz's teammate, Giancarlo Fisichella, who is six inches shorter and 12kg lighter.

Even though engineers had shaved pounds off the Benetton by the next race in Brazil, it was still 14kg too heavy with Wurz the only six-footer on the grid. The result was another time penalty that even the talent of the young Austrian struggled to overcome.

It is not Wurz's fault: he looks a thoroughbred, lean and tanned, and clearly six feet and an inch of muscle. He cannot lose any more weight, he says, but when you are tall, you are simply heavier: 82.5kg or almost 13st, in Wurz's case.

> 'I'm not going to cut off any limbs just to get under the weight'

To gauge how much bigger he is than his rivals, check on Johnny Herbert, who could double as a jockey in his spare time, his slender 5ft 6in frame whittled down to just 65.5kg, or 10st.

Wurz, 24, not only looks out of place in the pit lane, gazing down on to the tops of heads, but he has had to come to terms with the fact that he is effectively the wrong size for his sport. Put some of the most famous racing drivers in a room, such as Jackie Stewart, Stirling Moss and John Surtees, and they would not look out of place auditioning for a part as one of the Munchkins in *The Wizard of Oz*.

"My biggest problem is weight. It is like running a marathon with a rucksack on your back with five kilos inside it. You just can't make the same time as a lighter man. I can't lose a single kilo more as my body fat is right down to eight per cent, when other athletes have about ten per cent. I'm almost too big for Formula One," he said.

"Last year the car was lighter but when we were working on the new car and fitting me in, we put the car on the scales and got a shock. I have worked really hard to get as light as I could. I could get even lighter if I lost muscle but that's not what we want because I need the strength and fitness. Right now the team is struggling to take weight out of the car in time for Imola so I can compete at least on equal terms.

"That's the disadvantage of being tall, but I am not going to cut off any limbs just to get under the weight even though some people say I could have an operation to make me shorter."

With surgery sensibly ruled out, the target for the engineers at the Benetton factory at Enstone, in Oxfordshire, is to examine each individual component in the car to discover whether they can shave even the merest few ounces. "If you can make a part just five grams lighter, it is a small contribution to getting rid of that 20 kilos," Wurz said. "We have to do it if I am going to have a chance this season."

MARK THOMPSON/ALLSPORT



Wurz's height has led to no end of problems in trying to make the optimum weight for grand prix racing

WHY WURZ IS A HEAVYWEIGHT PROBLEM FOR DESIGNERS

A Formula One car and driver, in full race gear, must not weigh less than 600kg. However the heavier the driver, the less scope for designers to distribute ballast, which helps balance and handling, or use new components. That makes Johnny Herbert an ideal weight to aid design

Driver	Height	Weight
Alexander Wurz	6ft 1in	12st 13lb
David Coulthard	5ft 11in	12st 2lb
Michael Schumacher	5ft 8in	12st 2lb
Damon Hill	5ft 11in	12st
Mika Hakkinen	5ft 10in	11st 7lb
Jacques Villeneuve	5ft 5in	11st 2lb
Johnny Herbert (IDEAL WEIGHT)	5ft 6in	10st 4lb

EQUESTRIANISM

King injured in Saumur fall

By Jenny MacArthur

MARY KING, the Olympic three-day event rider, has broken her wrist and ankle in a crashing fall at the Saumur three-day event in France on Saturday. King was also concussed in the fall.

Her injuries were sustained when King William, the horse on which she won Badminton seven years ago, somersaulted after hitting a rail hard at fence 15.

King is likely to be out of the saddle for several weeks, which means that she will miss the inaugural Chatsworth Horse Trials later this month.

She had not entered for Badminton this year as her two leading horses, Star Appeal and King Solomon, are still returning to fitness after being on the sidelines since last year because of injury.

Blyth Tait, of New Zealand, the world and Olympic champion and one of the favourites for Badminton, which gets under way next week, saw a £160,000 bonus slip from his grasp when he and Aspyring finished runner-up to Karen O'Connor, on Prince Panache, at the Rolex Kentucky three-day event on Sunday.

Having won Burghley last September on Chesterfield, Tait was in line for the bonus, which is offered to any rider winning Burghley, Kentucky and Badminton in a 12-month span.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 49

FEAGUE
(b) To beat or whip. Also transferred.

GAZOON
(a) An adapted form of *gazon*, a sod or piece of turf, used in fortification, with mistaken sense.

GROSET
(c) A gooseberry.

FASCIATION
(a) The binding up of a limb, etc., with bandages. From the Latin *fascia*, a band, strip or fillet.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1 ... Bg2+ 2 Kg1 Rxg3! wins as if 3 hxg3 Rxg3 and Black continues 4 ... Rh3 and ... Rh1 mate. White tried 3 Nxd6 but after 3 ... R3g7 the threats along the g-file are decisive.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Racism's poetic justice

Counterblast
BBC2, 7.30pm

Poet and performer Linton Kwesi Johnson reflects on 25 years of black campaigning. He covers many of the same themes explored in his poetry tackling issues such as equality, justice and corruption. Johnson argues that the time is right to set up an independent black political organisation to highlight injustices. Although he admits much has been achieved over the years thanks to political campaigns, he warns against complacency. "As we enter the 21st century," he says, "we cannot afford to be complacent in the face of discrimination that simply won't go away. **Louise Johncox**



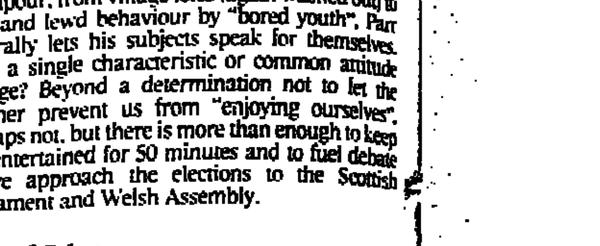
Modern Times pursues the idea of Englishness (BBC2, 9.30pm)

Ready To Wear: Suit U, Sir
BBC2, 9pm

A new series taking the sartorial approach to social history gives us this colourful but ultimately slightly unsatisfying scamper through the evolution of the gentlemen's suit from the 1950s to today. Heavily reliant on quotes from now-dead style magazines, it touches on such matters as the rite-of-passage that was your first made-to-measure suit (for the first job, wedding, etc), how high street tailors such as Burton dominated the scene for those beyond the Savile Row pale, and how extreme styles, materials and bright colours came to visit in the 1960s and never went away, although today's designer suits are generally more like those of the 1950s and 1960s than those of the intervening decades. Bound to provoke embarrassment among male viewers of a certain age, and howls of laughter among their juniors and families.

Modern Times
BBC2, 9.30pm

Think of England is a thoroughly entertaining and at times surprising film by Martin Parr, in which he pursues the idea of Englishness, the length and breadth of the land. From balmy (and arguably, barmy) Henley, to a Blackpool which looks as though it is about to be blown away during a downpour, from village fetes (again washed out) to loud and lewd behaviour by "bored youth", Parr generally lets his subjects speak for themselves. Does a single characteristic or common attitude emerge? Beyond a determination not to let the weather prevent us from "enjoying ourselves", perhaps not, but there is more than enough to keep you entertained for 50 minutes and to fuel debate as we approach the elections to the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly.



A Life of Grime
BBC1, 9.35pm (Ireland, 10.55pm)

Haringey's Environmental Health Officers Alison and Simon certainly earn their salaries in tonight's second film about the department's work. They must deal with a flat in Muswell Hill in which a dead man has lain rotting for weeks. Alison has to go through the tenant's belongings to find out whether he has any living family, or, more prosaically, whether he has enough money to pay for his funeral. Stories continued from last week include Bosola's pursuit of an illegal trader in goat meat and Mike's battle with an 81-year-old Polish war veteran whose home is a gigantic rubbish heap and who likes it that way. **Tony Patrick**

RADIO CHOICE

How Tickled Am I?
Radio 4, 11.30am

By transposing the last two words in Ken Dodd's familiar catchphrase and adding a question mark, the title of Mark Radcliffe's series about northern comedians takes us out of the realms of Doddery. What Radcliffe is doing, in effect, is use his own yardstick to measure a comedian's particular skill. He has already reassessed the styles of funny men such as Jimmy Clitheroe and Les Dawson. This morning it is Sandy Powell. I thought Powell was a middle-of-the-road chuckle-monger, eminently likeable, almost always clean, and intentionally, the worst ventriloquist in the world. It is a pity he is remembered mainly for his plaintive catchphrase: "Can you 'ear me, mother?" I wonder what Radcliffe will say about him this morning.

Whicker's New World
Radio 2, 10pm

The New World is, of course, the United States. Many Britons have chosen to settle down there, and Alan Whicker has traced a handful of them who made it to the top. With characteristic exaggeration, he says these expatriates were practically running things in Washington. Nevertheless, it is true that "a handsome divorcee" from Hereford became head of protocol for the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee, and that an English professor, who had three American wives, taught American university students the history of their own country. I wonder why Whicker didn't interview any expatriate Britons who were many rungs lower on the ladder of success. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Chris Moyles **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Dave Pearce **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce. Chart hits **8.00** Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session **10.00** Digital Update **10.10** John Peel. Orbital, live from the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London **12.00** The Breezeblock **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Lynn Parsons **5.05** Richard Allinson **7.00** Carl Davis Classics (4/13) **8.00** Nigel Ogden. News from the keyboard world **9.00** Duke Ellington. Such Sweet Thunder (2/3) **10.00** Whicker's New World. See Choice **10.30** Richard Allinson. Favourite sounds **12.00** Katrina Leskanich **3.00am** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** News **1.00pm** Ian Payne **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** The Tuesday Match. Coverage of the night's soccer action, including Crewe v Bristol City and PortVale v Watford **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Crime Fighters **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** The Sports Zone **7.00** The World of Formula 1 **8.00** Cheating Hearts with Jayne Irving **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am The Breakfast Show **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Gary Davies **1.00am** Richard Allen **4.30** Phil Kennedy

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** World Business Report **8.15** Insight **8.30** On Screen **9.00** World News **9.05** Performance **9.20** Off the Shelf: Frankenstien **9.35** Discovery **10.00** World News **10.05** The Moonstone **10.20** The U.K. Top Twenty **10.50** Sports Round-Up **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Britain Today **11.45** World Business Report **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Omnibus **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.45** Sports Round-Up **2.00** Newshour **3.00** World News **3.05** Discovery **3.30** On Screen **4.00** World News **4.05** Sports Round-Up **4.15** Westway **4.30** Everywo man **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Insight **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Going South **6.45** Sports Round-Up **7.00** World News **7.15** Britain Today **7.30** Omnibus **8.00** World News **8.05** Discovery **8.30** Soundbyte **8.45** Off the Shelf: Frankenstein **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.05** World Business Report **10.20** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian Live **11.00** World News **11.15** Sports Round-Up **11.30** Jazzmatazz **12.00** World News **12.05am** Outlook **12.45** Insight **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Discovery **1.55** My Century **2.00** The World Today **2.30** On Screen **3.00** The World Today **3.30** World Business Report **3.4 5** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.20** Sports Round-Up **4.30** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones introduces listeners' favourites **2.00pm** Concerto. Brahms (Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat major) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. Sport, finance and news, with John Brunning **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classical sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Elgar (Cockaigne Overture), Handel (Music for the Royal Fireworks); Langford (London Miniatures), Haydn (Symphony No 104 in D major); Mozart (Eine Kleine Nachtmusik) **11.00** Mann at Night. Music through till the small hours **2.00am** Concerto. Brahms (Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat major) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air With Sean Rafferty. Music includes Strauss's Serenade for Wind Instruments; Jos van Immerseel playing Clementi's Piano Sonata in G, Op 37 No 2; and music by Beethoven
9.00 Masterworks With Peter Hobday. Corelli (Concerto grosso in G minor, Op 6 No 8, Christmas Concerto); **9.14** Rachmaninov (Symphonic Dances); **9.47** Beethoven (Adelaide); **9.56** Bernstein (Serenade)
10.30 Artist of the Week Clarinettist Emma Johnson
11.00 Sound Stories Richard Baker looks at the history of the post of Master of the King's Music
12.00 Composer of the Week: Duke Ellington
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert The fourth of eight recitals given last year at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, featuring American music. Joanna MacGregor, piano. Ives (Bad Resolutions and Good One, Take-Offs; Three-Page Sonata); Cage (Sonatas Nos 14 and 15 for prepared piano); Cowell (Aeolian Harp; The Snows of Fujiyama); Cage (Sonatas Nos 2 and 5 for prepared piano), Gershwin, arr Finnissy (Nashville Nightingale, Shake Your Feet); Cage (Sonatas Nos 7 and 12 for prepared piano), Copland (Piano Variations, From the New World) (r)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philharmonic. Weber (Overture, Oberon); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 5 in E flat, Emperor); Britten (Four Sea Interludes, Peter Grimes); Rimsky-Korsakov (Scheherazade)
4.00 Voices Nathan Gunn, baritone, and Kevin Murphy, piano (r)
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty celebrates 250 years of Handel's *Music for the Royal Fireworks*
7.30 Performance on 3 A concert of piano trios by Jaime Laredo, violin, Sharon Robinson, cello, and Joseph Kalichstein, piano. Haydn (Piano Trio in A, H XV 18); Mendelssohn (Piano Trio No 2 in C minor, Op 66); Tchaikovsky (Piano Trio in A minor)
9.20 Postscript Derek Alsop explores what makes a great musical setting through five case studies
9.40 BBC National Orchestra of Wales Conductor Grant Llewellyn, Richard Morris, narrator, Heinz Karl Gruber, chansonnier. Kurt Schwertsik (Roald Dahl's Goldilocks); Gruber (Frankenstein!)
11.00 Night Waves Cate Blanchett stars in the revival of David Hare's seminal 1970s play *Plenty*, which opens tonight at the Almeida in London
11.30 Jazz Notes Duke Ellington's centenary
12.00 Through the Night Including **12.05** Karol Kurpinski (Two Huts); **12.15** Blow (Venus and Adonis, excerpts); **12.25** Chopin (12 Etudes, Op 25); **1.00** Music by Hildegard of Bingen; **1.55** Bruckner (Symphony No 9 in D minor); **3.00-4.30** Schools. Playtime **3.15** Time to Move **3.35** Let's Make a Story **3.50** Drama Workshop **4.10** In the News, **4.30** Fux (Missa Pro gratiarum actione); **5.00** Debussy, orch Busser (Printemps); **5.15** Arensky (Suite No 2, Silhouettes); **5.30** Beethoven (Grosse Fuge); **5.50** Liszt (Liebestraume)

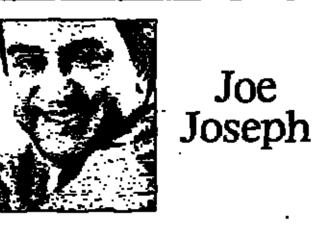
RADIO 4

5.30am World News
5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast
5.45 Prayer for the Day With Pastor Lindsay Allen
5.47 Farming Today Charlotte Smith presents
6.00 Today James Naughtie and Winifred Robinson present. Including Thought for the Day
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 Between Ourselves Olivia O'Leary introduces discussions about shared experiences. Two mountaineers talk about the decision to abandon a climbing partner on a mountain
9.30 The Manipulators New series. Claudia Hammond examines the role of psychology in manipulating human generosity of spirit (1/4)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (FM) Serial: Nathaniel's Nutmeg By Giles Milton. Read by Ben Onwukwe (2/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour Stella Rimington sheds some light on her secretive life before and after becoming Director-General of MI5. Drama: *Postcards* by Nick Darke
11.00 Tales from the Back of Beyond A team from Plymouth University investigate how cutting down the Borneo rainforest can increase insect numbers
11.30 How Tickled Am I? See Choice (4/6)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News
12.04pm You and Yours Presented by Mark Whittaker and Trixie Rawlinson
1.00 The World at One Presented by Nick Clarke
1.30 The Drums of Battle Christopher Cook examines the impact of the Thirty Years War on the music of the mid-17th century (2/6)
2.00 The Archers Helen makes an appointment (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: The Servant's Room Don Taylor's tale of a couple who delve into the history of their new home, starring Michael Jenn, Catherine Russell and Cheryl Campbell (r)
3.00 The Exchange: 0870 010 0444
3.30 Naming the Universe Heather Couper explores differing perspectives on the heavens (2/5)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 82 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 The Learning Curve With Libby Purves
4.30 Shop Talk Business matters, presented by Heather Payton
5.00 PM With Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 I'm Glad You Asked Me That Offbeat guide to modern living, with Michael Bywater, Sean Meo and Philip Pope
7.00 The Archers The latest events in Ambridge
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson presents the arts programme
7.45 Postcards Part two of Nick Darke's drama, starring Carl Grose and Diana Berriman. Sue's attic turns out to be full of surprises (r)
8.00 File on 4 Special Julian O'Halloran looks at last summer's financial crisis in Moscow (2/2)
8.40 In Touch Peter White presents news for visually impaired people
9.00 Case Notes Graham Easton investigates blood
9.30 Between Ourselves (r)
10.00 The World Tonight With Justin Webb
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Service of Clouds By Susan Hill. Read by Joanna David
11.00 Late Night on 4: The Now Show (r)
11.30 (FM) Talking Pictures Brian Sibley meets rising British actor Jude Law, and Christopher Frayling rides in search of the ultimate western (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
12.00 News
12.30am The Late Book: Biggest Elvis (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe**

When blonde ambition isn't quite enough





Joe Joseph

Everyone wants to be Hollywood's reigning blonde. Few have what it takes. ITV's biopic, *The Blonde Bombshell*, charting Diana Dors's struggle to get Hollywood's studio bosses to confirm her as Britain's answer to Marilyn Monroe, was a reminder of just how difficult it can be to make the grade — even when your bust is so big that sleeping on your front becomes impossible unless you have a head for heights.

By chance, it was shown just a few days after one of the most recent applicants for the crown, the improbably outsized Pamela Anderson, decided to deflate herself back to her God-given dimensions. The former Playboy model's decision to rethink her image may also have had something to do with the response to her big screen debut, *Barb Wire*. "Acting is not yet in Anderson's repertoire," said *The Times*. *The Guardian* thought "the whole thing resembles *Mad Max* with brassieres". See? Just having breasts that resemble beachballs is not enough.

Can anyone actually remember a film that Diana Dors was in? I cannot recall ever having seen her in a rainy Sunday afternoon repeat. I just about remember her — she must have been in her late forties or early fifties by then — as a contestant on celebrity quiz shows: bloated like an over-pumped tyre, with icing-white hair, she looked less like Britain's answer to Marilyn Monroe than Britain's answer to Elvis Presley.

She was certainly no Jean Harlow, let alone a Kim Novak or Grace Kelly. You cannot imagine Alfred Hitchcock, who hated "the obvious blonde", pestering Diana Dors to come for a screen test for *Rear Window*. Ephraim Katz, the film historian, said of Dors that "the public remained largely apathetic toward her frank, exaggerated sexuality". Ouch!

But in spite of this, Dors — even as a chat show guest — had that something that made her stand out from the pack: a luminous smile, and a sauciness that stopped just — just! — short of cheap. Pulling off such a cheesy act takes a rare talent. Selling it is a highwire act. Pretending to have it is like performing that same highwire act blindfold. This gives you some idea of just how big was the mountain that Keeley Hawes had to climb as the junior Dors (Amanda Redman takes over as Dors senior in tonight's second instalment).

Now Hawes is blessed with a buxom body, enhanced here by a bra that left her breasts pointing out into the world like two searchlights. This left her in the awkward situation of having to act like a coquettish 14-year-old — the age at which Diana Dors made her first film — when Hawes clearly no longer possesses the body of a teenager. So while trying to hint at what it was that the world saw in Dors (this was the easy bit), Hawes also had to shrink herself a little to try to look like a schoolgirl — the way tall women married to short men develop a subconscious stoop over the years to camouflage the disparity in their heights. It brings no shame to Keeley Hawes to say that she doesn't quite have the cheesy sauciness bordering on tartiness that was part of Dors's DNA: if she did she would probably be competing for roles with Pamela Anderson rather than appearing — very watchably — in TV adaptations of *Our Mutual Friend*.

Sexiness should fall like leaves from a tree. Here everyone was trying just that bit too hard. And Rupert Graves, for all his shouting and punching, still seemed just that bit too smooth a diamond to be Diana's first husband, Dennis Hamilton. The production was sumptuous — in fact so sumptuous that the vintage cars and immaculate 1950s artefacts all looked exactly like the lovingly nursed period props they are. It ran for two hours, but rarely exuded the brassy, backstreet sexiness which fertilised Dors's career.

But if many things went wrong in Diana Dors's life, at least she had the good fortune not to be born pretty and Swedish. In **Equinox: Sweden, Sex and the Disappearing Doctors** (Channel 4), we met Elsie Soderburg. She is one of the many hapless victims of Sweden's recently exposed eugenics programme, which ran from 1935 to 1975. The Swedes thought the smart way to rid the population of the genetically ill, of unsuitable parents and of the feeble-minded, was to sterilise them: also, the welfare state was in its infancy, and the State didn't want the dependants of these unsavoury types taking advantage of it.

So Sweden sterilised some 63,000 people, almost all of them women, and working-class. Doctors willingly took part in this well-intentioned barbarity.

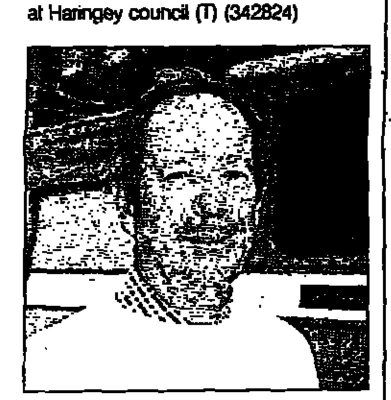
But Elsie wasn't even one of the many unmarried pregnant girls who were sterilised in return for being given properly conducted abortions. Elsie's crime was being pretty: the State feared that with a face like hers she would be bound to get up to hanky-panky sooner rather than later, thereby burdening society with unwanted children. So they did what any demented government might do: they sterilised her. She was 16.

Later, Elsie became a prostitute. Tracked down by the film's director, Fisher Dilke, the now retired Elsie still cannot work out why she was chosen to be cursed by the State. "You don't feel you are worth as much as other people," she tells him. "You lose your pride as a human being." The sterilisations were repealed in 1975 not because doctors rebelled but because Swedish feminists demanded the right to abortion and because of the arrival of the contraceptive pill.

It makes you wonder what those Stockholm bureaucrats would have done after one glimpse of Diana Dors's cleavage. Especially once they found out she wasn't even a natural blonde.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (59805)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (60404)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (9507398)
9.45 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook (r) (T) (730027)
10.15 The Vanessa Show (T) (8095422)
11.00 News; Weather (T) (5451602)
11.05 City Hospital (T) (9661331)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (2746814)
12.00 Going for a Song (4534701)
12.25pm Just a Minute (T) (7889878)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (11168756)
1.00 News; Weather (T) (10981)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (58506006)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (95711447)
2.00 Through the Keyhole (T) (4737)
2.30 Snooker: World Championship The last two quarter-finals (7165602)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (8041602) **3.45** Arthur (2038640) **4.10** Rugrats (1882824) **4.20** Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (5345114) **4.35** G Force (7046447) **5.00** Newsround (5078244) **5.10** Trading Places: French Exchange (2839843)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (604534)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (466)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (718)
7.00 Boys on Holiday David Gower and Rory McGrath visit Australia and Martin Clunes goes to Montana (T) (8553)
7.30 EastEnders (T) (602)
8.00 Airport Behind the scenes at Heathrow (r) (T) (4973)
8.30 Children's Hospital: Birmingham New series (T) (3008)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (T) (8534)
9.30 Party Election Broadcast By the Conservative Party (T) (682089)
9.35 CHOICE **A Life of Grime** The work of environmental health officers at Haringey council (T) (342824)



Michael Buerk reports on real-life emergencies (10.05pm)

10.05 999 New series, including the rescue of a girl stuck in a burning car following a freak accident on the M3 (T) (459466)
10.55 They Think It's All Over With Eddie Irvine and Bradley Walsh (r) (T) (661398)
11.25 Snapshot: Eddie Kidd (r) (T) (824422)
11.55 Mixed Company (1974) FILM Family comedy about a couple who decide to adopt three children. Joseph Bologna and Barbara Harris star. Directed by Melville Shavelson (896824)
1.40am Weather (2705799)
1.45 BBC News 24 (54331732)

WALES

6.30pm-7.00 Wales Today (T) (718) **9.35 Vote 99: The Debate** (305911) **10.25 A Life of Grime** (T) (973843) **10.55 999** (T) (711843) **11.45 Football: FAW Premier Cup** (338089) **12.20am Snapshot: Eddie Kidd** (r) (T) (8433515) **12.50 FILM: Mixed Company** (821461) **2.35 News** (T) (2598490) **2.40-6.00 BBC News 24** (85609190)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Noddy in Toyland (60422) **7.30** Top Cat (8540973) **7.55** Blue Peter (8805466) **8.20** Dastardly and Muttley (8510737) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (3093756) **8.50** Pingu (3082640) **9.00** Daytime On Two: Spanish Globo (4531485) **9.10** Go for It! (4511621) **9.25** Music Makers (9173027) **9.45** Numbertime (7981447) **10.00** Teletubbies (59244) **10.30** Daytime On Two: Watch (3539992) **10.45** Science Zone (9051973) **11.05** Space Ark (5472195) **11.15** Megamaths (1431737) **11.35** Isabel (4578640) **11.55** Techno (2875176) **12.15pm** Number Adventures (7669805) **12.30** Working Lunch (22027)
1.00 Oakie Doke (38731485)
1.10 Snooker: World Championship Quarter-final coverage (9966350)
2.30 The Art (5854282)
2.38 Tales from the Net (8826176)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (8823089)
2.45 Westminster (T) (5662621)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (5319027)
3.30 Snooker: World Championship Further quarter-final coverage (630911)
6.00 Heartbreak High (T) (533824)
6.43 Tales from the Net (T) (216176)
6.45 Snooker: World Championship Further quarter-final coverage (937911)
7.30 CHOICE **Counterblast** Poet Linton Kwesi Johnson explores racial discrimination (T) (244)
8.00 University Challenge (T) (5843)
8.30 The Antiques Show (T) (4350)



A man's suit can be a measure of his social standing (9pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Ready to Wear** The influence of fashion on the social history of Britain (1/6) (T) (6176)
9.30 CHOICE **Modern Times** Martin Parr's documentary about English stereotypes (T) (304282)
10.20 A Little Piece of Home (r) (486027)
10.30 Party Election Broadcast By the Conservative Party (988718)
10.35 Newsnight (T) (305331)
11.18 Video Nation Shorts from the Balkans (T) (879756)
11.20 Snooker: World Championship Quarter-final highlights (540602)
11.55 Weather 12.00 Despatch Box (28003)
12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Empowerment (71062) **1.00** Living with Cracks (50751) **1.30** Inspection by Torchlight (97770) **2.00** Schools: PSHE — Lifeschool A-Z (65393) **4.00** Languages: Make French Your Business (49577) **5.00** Business and Training. Web Wise (3842596) **5.45** Open University: Marin Mersenne (2349954) **6.10** Development Aid (7766206) **6.35** Money Grows on Trees (5660003)

WALES

11.05am-11.15 Your Assembly: The Ultimate Guide (5472195)

HTV WEST

5.30am ITV Morning News (95195)
6.00 GMTV (2440008)
9.25 Trisha (T) (3193379)
10.30 This Morning (T) (49700447)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7656331)
12.30 ITV News; Weather (T) (2287485)
12.55 Shortland Street (1346263)
1.30 Home and Away (T) (16753089)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (5611447)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2600602)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5318398)
3.15 HTV News (T) (5317669)
3.20 CITV: Maisy (5307282) **3.25** Rosie and Jim (6332718) **3.40** The Wombles (4661263) **3.50** Scooby and Scrappy Doo (7567282) **4.10** Snap (7637843) **4.40** The Quick Trick Show (2557089)
5.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (3485)
5.30 Can You Keep a Secret? (T) (621)
5.58 HTV Weather (443973)
6.00 HTV News (T) (732379)
6.25 Party Election Broadcast By the Conservative party (811485)
6.29 HTV Crimestoppers (811485)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (114)
7.00 Emmerdale (T) (3621)
7.30 Doll's House Toyah Willcox charts the history of dolls' houses (1/3) (r) (T) (398)
8.00 The Bill Boulton is accused of killing a suspect who attacked him during a raid. With Russell Boulter (T) (4602)



Amanda Redman plays the British actress Diana Dors (9pm)

9.00 The Blonde Bombshell Concluding part of the drama, chronicling the second half of Diana Dors's eventful life, including her return from Hollywood, subsequent bankruptcy and marriages to Dickie Dawson and Alan Lake. With Amanda Redman, Gary Webster and Daniel Isaacs (2/2) (T) (4089)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (357824)
11.12 HTV News and Weather (T) (242553)
11.30 The Thoughts of Chairman Alf (T) (75282)
12.00 The Making of Arlington Road Review of Jeff Bridges's latest film (55157)
12.30am The Haunted Fishtank (71008)
12.55 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (9821751)
1.45 Judge Judy (T) (6153664)
2.30 Wish You Were Here? Including reports from Skegness, Kenya, Egypt and Australia (r) (T) (66461)
3.00 McGilloway's Way (67041)
3.30 Football Extra (r) (2440935)
4.20 Coach (49543080)
4.45 Night Shift (25631312)
4.55 ITV Nightscreen (7400935)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: **5.30pm-5.58 Family Affairs** An undertaking business (2/6) (T) (621) **7.30-8.00 Wales Decides '99** Assembly preparations in Monmouth (398)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (9874060) **12.55 Home and Away** (T) (2262176) **1.25 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (4436992) **2.10-2.40 Winners** (3/6) (r) (T) (89409263) **3.15-3.20 Central News;** Weather (T) (5317669) **5.30 Shortland Street** (621) **6.00-6.25 Central News;** Weather (T) (732379) **7.30-8.00 30 Minutes** (398) **11.15-11.25 Central News** (T) (227244) **11.25-12.25 Renegade** (214640) **2.00am Wish You Were Here?** (r) (T) (8370003) **2.25 McGilloway's Way** (8399138) **2.50 Football Extra** (r) (2200577) **3.45 Jobfinder '99** (T) (329041) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (9101374)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm News** (T) (7656331) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (9899379) **12.55-1.25 Lunchtime Live** (T) (2262176) **1.25 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (4436992) **2.10-2.40 Home and Away** (T) (89409263) **3.15-3.20 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (5317669) **4.58-5.00 Birthday People** (4047404) **5.30 Judi Spiers** (1/10) (621) **6.00-6.25 Westcountry Live;** Weather (T) (732379) **7.30-8.00 On Foot** (2/6) (T) (398) **11.15-11.25 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (227244) **11.25 Power Game** (529850) **11.55-12.25 Campus Cops** (842602)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 News;** Weather (7656331) **5.30 Monkey Business** (5/7) (r) (621) **6.00-6.25 Meridian Tonight** (T) (732379) **7.29 Weather** (380350) **7.30-8.00 Decision Time** (T) (398) **11.15 News;** Weather (T) (227244) **11.25 Cyber Cafe** (529850) **11.55-12.25 Pier Pressure** (r) (842602) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (39770)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.15-12.30 Anglia News** (7656331) **5.25 About Anglia** (8028626) **6.00-6.25 News** (T) (732379) **7.30-8.00 Go Fishing with John Wilson** (398) **11.15-11.25 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (227244) **11.55-12.25 Taxi** (842602)

S4C

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (86860602) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (69436843) **9.00 Ysgolion:** Science in Focus (67763008) **9.20 Express** (92743350) **9.30 Eureka** (37266911) **9.45 Stop, Look, Listen** (37261466) **10.00 The Number Crew** (13793355) **10.10 Technoleg Ewropeaidd** (56169553) **10.40 GNVQ - Is It For You 2** (71111447) **11.00 First Edition** (25821379) **11.15 Stage One** (25804602) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (90148737) **12.00 Caroline in the City** (T) (63977805) **12.30pm Sesame Street** (T) (93868973) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (69406602) **1.30 Earthscape** (82688447) **1.35 FILM: By the Light of the Silvery Moon** (T) (57610534) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (99829756) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (99808263) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (99804447) **5.00 Planed Plant** (41279060) **5.30 Countdown** (r) (T) (99828027) **6.00 Party Election Broadcast** (70630331) **6.05 Newyddion** (T) (70639602) **6.10 Heno** (T) (39133992) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (41299824) **7.30 Darllediad Etholiadol gan Blaid Cymru** (56327027) **7.35 Newyddion** (T) (31769843) **8.05 Clwb Garddio** (T) (84122398) **8.35 Pengelli** (T) (52321263) **9.05 Achabachyn** (r) (T) (33245282) **9.50 Etholiad '99** (T) (84356992) **10.05 Brookside** (T) (51642263) **10.40 X-Rated Ricki** (T) (92160824) **11.25 The 11 O'Clock Show** (85263621) **11.55 Smack the Pony** (T) (67868282) **12.25am The Establishment** (4/6) (T) (15872645) **12.55 The Establishment** (5/6) (T) (61003683) **1.25 Diwedd 4.00 Ysgolion:** Enter the Maths Zone (21993393) **5.15 The English Programme** (39096916) **5.40 Film and Video Showcase** (77490157) **11.55-12.25 Taxi** (842602)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (75843)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (95534)
9.00 Schools: Science in Focus (9149060) **9.20** Express (3728602) **9.30** Eureka (7971060) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (7909843) **10.00** The Number Crew (7884534) **10.10** Chuck Wallace's Middle Age Spread (1198282) **10.25** Haud Yer Tongue (1193737) **10.40** GNVQ: Is It For You? (9087398) **11.00** First Edition V (6973805) **11.15** Stage One (6996756)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (2737)
12.00 Sesame Street (T) (82911)
12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (17195)
1.00 Suddenly Susan (T) (98621)
1.30 Whoosh! Short film about a woman with a passion for the Beach Boys (58599718)
1.40 I Want You (1951) FILM Dana Andrews and Dorothy McGuire star in this drama about the effects of the Korean War on a prosperous small-town family. Directed by Mark Robson (T) (32855718)
3.30 Collectors' Lot Debbie Thrower meets a Frank Sinatra fanatic (T) (992)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (517)
4.30 Countdown (T) (7063114)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (9818447)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (263)
6.00 King of the Hill (r) (T) (176)
6.30 Home Improvement (T) (896176)
6.55 Planet Pop (239027)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (805973)
7.55 Margaret Thatcher: Where Am I Now? Cartoonist Steve Bell's depiction of the Thatcher years (2/5) (T) (791602)
8.00 Brookside Joey has a confession to make (T) (5981)
8.30 Driven Featuring a road-test of the Lexus GS 300 Sport, plus a look at reducing fuel costs (2/15) (T) (6718)
9.00 The Decision A new social worker is appointed to deal with David, a 15-year-old who has spent a third of his life in care (2/3) (T) (6789843)
10.15 X-Rated Ricki (T) (527331)
11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show (463089)



Habitual shoplifter Neville Weakes tries to go straight (11.35pm)

11.35 Electric Avenue Series profiling the people who live in an area of Brixton, South London (4/4) (T) (852089)
12.05am Onedotty Film anthology (7910867)
12.40 Brussels: Behind Closed Doors A look inside the headquarters of the European Parliament to see how member states reach consensus on new laws (3/3) (r) (T) (6101190)
1.40 Accident (1967) FILM Drama about the aftermath of a car accident. Starring Dirk Bogarde and Vivien Merchant. Directed by Joseph Losey (774480)
3.30 Black World The launch of a new magazine in Brazil (r) (88683)
4.00 Schools: Enter the Maths Zone (8967461) **5.15** The English Programme (9207867) **5.40** Film and Video Showcase (2351799)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (5301669)
7.00 WideWorld (r) (T) (2251485)
7.30 Milkshake! (2049843)
7.35 Muppet Babies (4470756)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (8250089)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (8242060)
9.00 The Roseanne Show (5963398)
9.50 Russell Grant's Postcards (r) (8364331)
9.55 The Bold and the Beautiful James visits Sheila (T) (1723485)
10.25 Sunset Beach (T) (4655282)
11.15 Leeza (3336195)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8253176)
12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T); 5 News Update (5936355)
1.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (4221737)
1.50 McMillan and Wife: Death of a Monster — Birth of a Legend (TVM, 1974) FILM The heir to a Highland estate murders his grandfather — but doesn't count on the intervention of visiting couple Mac and Sally. Light-hearted mystery, starring Rock Hudson and Susan Saint James. Directed by Dan Petrie; 5 News Update (28363244)
3.15 The Trip to Bountiful (1985) FILM Oscar-winning drama, starring Geraldine Page as an elderly widow who leaves behind the pressures of domestic life and returns to her small-town home. Directed by Peter Masterson (60777992)
5.20 5 News (59662737)
5.30 100 Per Cent (6541640)
6.00 5 News; Weather (T) (6548553)
6.30 Family Affairs (T); 5 News Update (6539805)
7.00 Can We Still Be Friends? (2/15) (2565089)
7.30 Wild in the USA (T); 5 News Update (6535089)
8.00 Are You Being Cheated? Updates of previous shows in the series, including a return visit to the Environment Agency to find out how successful its battle against illegal waste dumping has been, an investigation into how people risk their lives to reduce electricity bills and a look at some of the more devious means that alcohol and cigarette smugglers use to hide their contraband (T) (2574737)
8.30 What Went Wrong? An autistic boy is rescued from the top of a 120ft pylon by his brother who suffers from vertigo, and two firemen combat an explosion in a 50,000 gallon fuel-storage tank; 5 News Update (2553244)
9.00 Swimming with Sharks (1994) FILM Black comedy, with Kevin Spacey as a tyrannical film studio executive whose brutal ways finally prove too much for his mild-mannered assistant. Frank Whaley, Michelle Forbes and Benicio Del Toro also star. Directed by George Huang (T). 5 News Update (49691911)
10.50 Two Gus's death is reported, leaving Booth and Agent Carter mystified (8023355)
11.45 Live and Dangerous (7100485)
12.25am NFL Europe Highlights of Amsterdam v Frankfurt (6232954)
12.55 Dutch Football The semi-finals of the Amstel Cup (50006799)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6345119)

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● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (31350) **7.30** Godzilla (50485) **8.00** Pokemon (12176) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (11447) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (21534) **10.00** Oprah Winfrey (58669) **11.00** Guilty! (36805) **12.00** Jenny Jones (52282) **1.00pm** Mad About You (30621) **1.30** Jeopardy (49718) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (27669) **3.00** Jenny Jones (41602) **4.00** Guilty! (60737) **5.00** Deep Space Nine (6114) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (7718) **6.30** Dream Team (1398) **7.00** The Simpsons (7843) **7.30** The Simpsons (6422) **8.00** Speed! (3263) **8.30** Speed! (2398) **9.00** Police Stop! 7 (91195) **10.00** Hot Summer Down Under (94282) **11.00** Dream Team (61486) **11.30** Deep Space Nine (93373) **12.30am** Chris Evans (87480) **1.30** Law and Order (42190) **2.30** Long Play (9153886)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) **Deconstructing Harry (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Titanic (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Hard Rain (1998)**

SKY PREMIER

7.00am Il Postino (1995) (63718) **8.00 Treehouse Hostage (1998)** (38373) **10.00 Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979)** (98551534) **12.10 Il Postino (1995)** (609553) **2.00 My Best Friend's Wedding (1997)** (83176) **4.00 Treehouse Hostage (1998)** (11586379) **5.50 Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979)** (4031992) **8.00 My Best Friend's Wedding (1997)** (74185) **10.00 Con Air (1997)** (400621) **11.55 Outrage (1997)** (65060) **1.25am The Last Supper (1996)** (30596) **3.00 To Love, Honour and Deceive (1996)** (514916) **4.35** Femmes [illegible] Bridget Fonda (6971636)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.15am Seasons of the Heart (1994) (5818669) **7.00 The Big Game (1995)** (22602) **9.00 The Buttercream Gang (1992)** (21485) **11.00 Spiceworld: The Movie (1997)** (76599) **1.00 The Big Game (1995)** (92973) **3.00 The Buttercream Gang (1992)** (14749) **5.00 Lovestruck (1996)** (21824) **7.00 Spiceworld: The Movie (1997)** (46282) **9.00 Sins of the Mind (1997)** (52718) **10.30** How to Get Ahead in Film (27008) **11.00 Scream (1996)** (549244) **12.50am To Sir, With Love II (TVM 1995)** (461157) **2.25 The Haunted Heart (1994)** (415886) **4.00 Ghoulies Go to College (1990)** (742138)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Notorious (1946) (7663737) **6.00 Tarzan's Hidden Jungle (1955)** (2900878) **8.00 Breakout (1975)** (65527737) **9.45** Cinema Nation (4183534) **10.00 Dead Ringers (1988)** (3586602) **11.55** 100 Years, 100 Movies: The Wilder Shores of Love (8373466) **12.50am Harper (1966)** (7801374) **2.50 The Lineup (1958)** (2698041) **4.25 3.10 to Yuma (1957)** (7472645)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey (1991) (73040282) **7.40** Waiting for Go (7462602) **8.00 The Taking of Pelham 123 (1974)** (8906447) **10.00 Little Buddha (1993)** (25713911) **12.10am Panther (1995)** (3458461) **2.10 Malcolm X (1992)** (55704119) **6.00** Close

TNT

9.00pm Telefon (1977) (93894805) **11.00 Welcome to Hard Times (1967)** (90874485) **1.00am Ada (1961)** (90832409) **3.00 Telefon (1977)** (84120041) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** V-Max **7.45** Total Sport **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style **10.00** V-Max **10.30** Total Sport **11.00** Football Special: PFA Awards **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style **12.30pm** NFL Europe **1.00** NASCAR **3.00** Football Special: PFA Awards **4.00** Martial Arts **4.30** NFL Europe **5.00** World Wrestling Federation: Live Wire **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Inside Scottish Football **7.30** Fastrax **8.00** Live Greyhound Racing **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** Inside Scottish Football **12.00** Sports Centre **12.15am** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** International Football **3.00** US Golf **5.00** Sports Centre **5.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Moto-Plus **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** International Bowls **12.00** Ten Pin Bowling **1.00pm** Football League Special **2.30** Rebel Sports **3.00** Men's Lacrosse **4.30** Live International Football **7.00** Rebel Sports **7.30** Australian Rally Championship **8.00** International Football **10.00** US Golf **12.00** Major League Baseball **2.00am** Sports Unlimited **3.00** Lacrosse **4.30** Sports Centre **4.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am World Wrestling Federation Live Wire **1.00pm** Fish TV **2.00** Golden Age of Motor Racing: A to Z of Motor Sport **2.30** Wonderful World of Golf **3.30** International Bowls **5.30** Total Sport **6.00** Sports Unlimited **7.00** Rugby League Academy **8.00** NASCAR **10.00** Boxing Superbouts **11.00-11.30** Tales from the Premiership

EUROSPORT

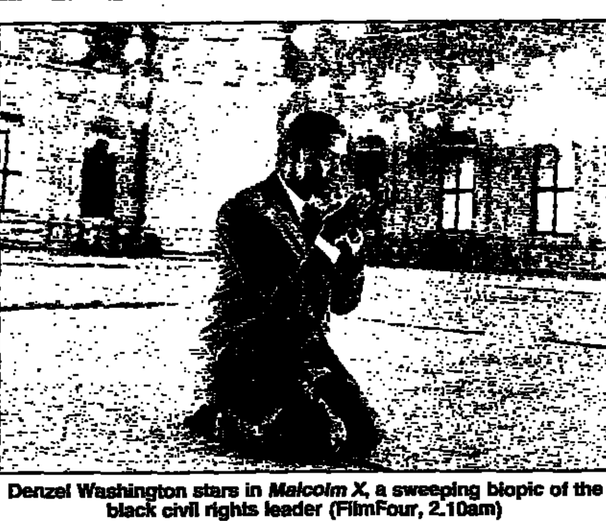
7.30am Equestrianism **9.00** Weightlifting **11.00** Football **12.30** Wrestling **1.30** Motor Racing **2.30** American Billiards **4.00** Live Football **5.30** Football **7.00** Sumo **8.00** Live Boxing **10.00** Football **11.00** Golf **12.00** Trial Biking **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** Dangerfield **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em **7.40** Last of the Summer Wine **8.20** Dad's Army **9.00** Red Dwarf **9.40** Jonathan Creek **10.55** Carrott's Commercial Breakdown **12.00** The Bill **12.30am** The Bill **1.00** Between the Lines **2.00** Dad's Army **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Wish Me Luck **7.00** Plus On Plus **7.30** The Odd Couple **8.00** Families **8.30** Mind Your Language **9.00** Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** Charlie's Angels **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale **1.00** Mind Your Language **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Charlie's Angels **6.00** Emmerdale **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** Benny Hill **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** Hale and Pace **10.30-11.00** The Comedians



Denzel Washington stars in *Malcolm X*, a sweeping biopic of the black civil rights leader (FilmFour, 2.10am)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** Animal SOS **6.30** Our House **7.00** Boon **8.00** Chancer **9.00** The Upper Hand **9.30** Flying Start **10.00** Always Afternoon **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** Tales of the Unexpected **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.07** Animal Shelf **9.17** Pocket Dragon Adventures **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.12** Rosie and Jim **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00** The Adventures of Spot **12.07pm** Animal Shelf **12.17** Pocket Dragon Adventures **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.12** Rosie and Jim **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Aladdin and the King of Thieves (1995)** **8.20** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.10** Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Dr Quinn **11.50** Classic Toons **12.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.20** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Dennis and Gnasher **8.00** Hero Turtles **8.25** The Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** Eek!Stravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Eek!-Stravaganza **6.55-7.00** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Extreme Ghostbusters **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Hey Arnold! **8.30** Doug **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Franklin **2.00** Paddington Bear/Lizzie's Library/Portland Bill/Mr Men/Ivor the Engine **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** The Secret Life of Alex Mack **7.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Cops **9.30** The Late Lounge **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: Deadly Target (1994)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: Eleven Days, Eleven Nights II (1988)** **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30-6.00** Cops

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Caroline in the City **8.00** Mad About You **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** Spin City **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00am** Garry Shandling's Show **1.30** Nurses **2.00** Almost Perfect **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Mork and Mindy **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 6pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **10.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00** The Twilight Zone **12.30pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Space Precinct **7.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **8.00** V **9.00** Twin Peaks **10.00 FILM: Panga (1991)** **11.40** Sci-Focus Special **12.00** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal **1.00am FILM: Spaceballs (1987)** **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Simply Painting **6.30** Instant Gardens **7.00** Garden Calendar **7.30** The Great House Game **8.00** Australia's Strangest Home Improvements **8.30** The Close Guide **9.00** The Joy of Painting **9.30** Grassroots **10.00** Instant Gardens **10.30** Antiques Challenge **11.00** Hooked on Fishing with Paul Young **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Total Fishing with Matt Hayes **12.00** These Four Walls **12.30pm** Doorstep DIY **1.00** The Furniture Guys **1.30** Gimme Shelter **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Two's Country: Sicily

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** The Diceman **5.00** Rogues' Gallery **6.00** Outback Adventures **6.30** Tiger Hunt: The Elusive Sumatran **7.30** How Did They Build That? **8.00** Black Box **9.00** Crocodile Hunter **9.30** Crocodile Hunter **10.00** Ultimate Guide to Octopus **11.00** Extreme Machines **12.00** Pole Position **1.00am** How Did They Build That? **1.30** The Diceman **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am Hollywood Safari **2.00pm** Hunters **3.00** Rediscovery of the World **4.00** Shark! The Silent Savage **5.00** Wild Rescues **6.00** Pet Rescue **7.00** Wildlife SOS **7.30** Wildlife SOS **8.00** Animal Doctor **9.00** Emergency Vets **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Emergency Vets **10.30** Emergency Vets **11.00** Emergency Vets **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Okavango Diary **7.30** Panama: Paradise Found? **8.30** The Third Planet **9.00** Natural Born Killers: Royal Blood **10.00** Killer Storms: Cyclone! **11.00** The Shark Files: Quest For the Basking Shark **12.00** The Shark Files: The Smile of the Shark

HISTORY

4.00pm Secrets of War: Spies of the Sky **5.00** The Viking Ships **6.00** Hoax of the Ages: Piltdown Man **6.55** Photos for the Future **7.00** Shogun: The Supreme Samurai

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** The Green Gourmet **10.30** Jenny Bristow's Country Cooking **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** Ideal Home Cooks **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** Loyd's Louisiana **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Thoroughly Modern Britsh **2.00** Simply Baking **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Nordic Nosh **3.30** Ideal Home Cooks **4.00** Tessa's Tastebuds **4.30** Ross's Foreign Assignment **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.30** Animal Rescue **7.00** Professor Bubble **7.25** Caillou **7.30** Polka Dot Shorts **7.40** Johnson and Friends **7.50** Babaloos **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** My Zoo **8.30** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** Home and Away **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Home and Away **5.10** Through the Keyhole **5.40** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00 FILM: Dying to Love You (1993)** **11.00** Sexdasy! **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Punjabi Folk Songs **5.30** Old is Gold **6.00** Aap Ki Farmaish **6.30** Usha Uthup Show **7.00** Faith: Hindu **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Out and About **8.30** Tara 2 **9.00** Hasratein **10.00** Stage Plays **11.00** Khana Khazana **11.30** Parampara **12.00 Punjabi FILM: Khud Preetan De** **3.00pm** Bangla TV: Nokhattrer Rat **3.30** Cine Magic **4.00** Filmi Chakkar **4.30** Zee Top 10 **5.30** Aashirwad **6.00** Mama Miya **6.30** Humm Tara Rum **7.00** Do Aur Do Paanch **7.30** Chalo Cinema **8.00** News **8.30** Teacher **9.00** Zee Addicts **9.30** Zanjeeren **10.00** Hadd Kar Di **10.30** Mahabharat **11.30** Yaadon Ke Rang **12.00** News **12.30am** Pakistan Business **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parivartan **2.00** Urdu FILM **4.30** Lolly-Pop



RUGBY LEAGUE 49
Broncos' owner hopes to buck trend at Wembley

SPORT

MOTOR RACING 50
Alexander the great leaves Benetton with weighty problem



Players expected to agree to donate fees from match against Hungary to Kosovan refugees

Keegan asks England to dig deep

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN BUDAPEST

THE Danube was looking a dirty shade of green yesterday, so it seemed fitting that the England squad should arrive here feeling blue. Depleted beyond measure and nervous because of the proximity of war-torn Yugoslavia, it was left to Kevin Keegan to try to accentuate the positives of a trip that is flirting with farce. He made a good start.

Wearing his heart on his sleeve as usual, the England caretaker manager suggested that the country's pampered footballers should look at the bigger picture and donate part of their match fee for the international against Hungary tomorrow night to Kosovan refugees.

It might only be a gesture, but it would be a beginning, a guarantee that whatever else happened in the run-up to a troubled fixture that nobody seems to want. England could at least go home with something to be proud of.

Match fees are not yet as inflated as the players' salaries and are calculated on a sliding scale that takes account of experience and participation in the match. It is still thought that the total given to charity may amount to £30,000. Keegan's urgings are almost certain to be ratified by the players' committee this morning.

"It is just something I believe we should do," Keegan said, "a gesture to show that we care. We are entering into an area and there is a war going on next door. This is definitely something that the England football team needs to do and I will seek out Alan Shearer and the other senior players to discuss it with them."

This, of course, is Keegan's forte, the ability to turn bad into good, to sense what is the best thing to do in an emotive situation, to avoid being niggardly. He eschews circumspection and compromise and thrives on spontaneity. In this situation, he is exactly what his green-gilled squad needs.

Most of all, he insisted yesterday that the match tomorrow was brimming with opportunities for the young players, who have inherited their places in the squad because of the mass withdrawals that have given it such an unfamiliar, inexperienced look. Added to the six players who pulled out because of assorted injuries over the weekend, Manchester United and Arsenal had already been allowed to declare David Beckham, Gary Neville, Ray Parlour and Tony Adams unavailable.

All that means that there will be new caps tomorrow. Keegan said that he would announce the team after training this morning and that his side would include at least two "youngsters". Either Kevin Phillips, the Sunderland striker, or Emile Heskey, of Leicester City, will start alongside Shearer. Michael Gray may play on the left side of defence and if Francis Jeffers, the precocious Everton forward, gets a taste of the action he will become the second-youngest player this century to appear for England.



Keegan: in positive mood

That was Keegan's thrust: the fact that an innocuous match against a once mighty team that has taken its place among the also-rans of Europe could provide a springboard for a young player who might not otherwise havehad the chance. He did not snipe at the respective club managers for withdrawing their players.

"Every manager has played ball with me," he said. "They have all asked whether they wanted the injured player to come down for a medical, but what is the point of asking someone to sit in a car for seven hours just so I can prove what his manager has already told me? I don't see the worth in antagonising managers. We have to work in tandem for the good of the league and for the England national team."

Keegan, though, was keen to express admiration and empathy for those such as Shearer, who were desperate to play for their country whatever the occasion. "We will still have the nucleus of a good team," Keegan said, "and now it will be sprinkled with a bit of stardust. We will still take something from this game. A few of these young players are going to get on the plane home as full internationals.

"They could make a fantastic impression, others may turn in a performance where they don't let themselves down, others may offer signs it has come too quickly for them. That's down to them, not me. I can only provide them with the chance.

"Certain withdrawals have been a blow to us, but we go, we play and we will send out a team with plenty of youth and enthusiasm. Alan Shearer is captain and he will respond to that, but I am more interested in how the young player making his debut up front alongside him responds to playing with Alan. The presence of the captain is important, but it was never in any doubt. Alan is not a prima donna. He wants to play in every game and I can relate to that.

"When Don Revie was in charge and we were due to go to Ireland for a friendly, he asked me if I wanted a couple of days at home with my family. I asked him: 'What are you trying to say?' and he explained there had been a death threat against the team from some crank.

"I told him I wanted to play, to get me on the plane. It was an England game. Yes, some games are bigger than others at this level, but you have got to have the right attitude for every England match."



A solitary policeman patrols the outfield in Bridgetown. The players had already left the field when bottles were thrown after a controversial run-out. Photograph: David Gray

Forest puzzle as Evans denies applying for job

BY STEPHEN WOOD

NOTTINGHAM Forest yesterday confirmed that Roy Evans, the former Liverpool manager, was one of "three or four" candidates hoping to become the next manager at the City Ground. Last night, however, Evans insisted that he had not shown any interest in the post.

Forest, who were relegated from the FA Carling Premiership after their defeat away to Aston Villa last weekend, need to make a new managerial appointment this summer. Ron Atkinson, the present manager, announced his retirement last Saturday, to take effect from the end of the season. Yesterday lunchtime a spokesman for Forest indicated that Evans could become Atkinson's successor and the club's fourth manager since Brian Clough ended his 18-year reign in 1993.

"Roy is in the frame for the job and is one of three or four candidates," the club spokesman said. Evans, who was believed to have applied for the vacancy in January this year after Dave Bassett, Atkinson's predecessor, was sacked, initially refused to comment but, later yesterday, denied that he had sent an application to Forest. However, Evans has been looking to return to management since he left his job as the joint-manager of Liverpool last November.

Evanswas a candidate to fill the manager's vacancy at Blackburn Rovers, which went to Brian Kidd, but even if he does not put himself forward for the Forest post, there are other candidates to take control of the team in the Nationwide League first division next season.

Sammy McIlroy, the Macclesfield manager, is under consideration after taking the Moss Rose club from non-league football to the second division. David Moyes, the Preston North End manager, is another contender, while there are suggestions that Forest could opt for a managerial combination of Stuart Pearce and Nigel Clough, two of their former players.

Pearce is still on the playing staff of Newcastle United, while Clough is player-manager of Burton Albion, the Dr Martens League club.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1702

ACROSS
7 Concede to majority (4,4,4)
9 Powerful; fervent (7)
10 Long narrow top (5)
11 Drink carrier: sounds like *feature* (4)
12 Sunken continent (8)
15 Deep (ice) fissure (8)
17 Ring of light (4)
19 To deposit: gatehouse (5)
21 Loss of memory (7)
22 Hurry up! (*slang*) (4,2,6)

DOWN
1 Phoenician city, Rome rival (8)
2 Side (of animal, army) (5)
3 Swarm damagingly in (6)
4 Diary: magazine (7)
5 Intelligence: object to (4)
6 Final eg hymn: Kipling poem (11)
8 Subversive group (5,6)
13 Wing of church (8)
14 Athlete's spear (7)
16 Thinly scattered (6)
18 Relative by marriage (2-3)
20 Embankment; ditch (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1701
ACROSS: 1 Shaft 7 Hallway 8 Barrage 9 Twinkle 11 Rapier 13 Langue/doc 15 Crow's feet 19 Robust 21 Quarrel 23 Implode 24 Cheerio 25 Rufus
DOWN: 1 Sober 2 Abrupt 3 Travel 4 Whet 5 Flange 6 Balloon 10 Wagner 12 Raffle 14 Fraught 16 Warder 17 Torpor 18 Put off 20 Teens 22 Lion

World Cup organisers have faith in security

BY RICHARD HOBSON

SECURITY measures due to be implemented for the cricket World Cup will not be tightened in response to crowd trouble in the Caribbean. Michael Browning, the event manager, said that plans already in place will prevent a repeat of the frightening scenes in Guyana and Barbados over the past week that tarnished the one-day series between West Indies and Australia.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is awaiting reports from Raman Subba Row, the match referee, but has already pledged to investigate disturbances that threatened the safety of players. Even John Howard, the Prime Minister of Australia, felt compelled to join a chorus of condemnation yesterday.

Steve Waugh described as "pure luck" the fact that no one was seriously injured when bottles rained on to the outfield in the latest incident in Bridgetown on Sunday night. "It is only a matter of time before somebody is killed," the Australia captain said. "You cannot risk blokes' safety for a game of cricket."

Organisers of the World Cup have held regular meetings over the past two years with the Association of Chief Police Officers and equivalent organisations in Scotland, Ireland and Holland, where a total of four matches are scheduled.



Campbell is run out after colliding with Julian in the moment that sparked the latest crowd disturbances

"We have planned for every contingency," Browning said. "As new issues come to our attention, we are prepared to take them into consideration, but so far nothing has happened that we have not thought about and discussed previously."

The latest episodes follow scenes in Calcutta two months ago when 50,000 spectators had to be evacuated from Eden Gardens before a Test match between India and Pakistan could be completed. When the ICC cricket committee meets on May 12 and 13, the Calcutta riots will be discussed along with those in the West Indies. They will be raised again at an executive meeting on June 23 and 24.

"There have been real threats to the security of players and officials, which is a very serious state of affairs," David Richards, the ICC chief executive, said. "What has happened is unacceptable." Although the ICC is empowered to suspend international cricket at any venue, Richards suggested that it would be more constructive to implement measures to prevent problems arising at source.

Difficulties arose in Barbados when Sherwin Campbell, playing on his home ground, was run out after colliding with Brendon Julian, the Australia bowler. The touring side, however, are more concerned with a pitch invasion in Guyana five days earlier, when Subba Row had to adjudicate the match as a tie.

Michael Hogan, a spokesman for the Australia Cricket Board, said: "We will not be going to Guyana again unless things change. Barbados is not quite the same situation as the Bajans are very enthusiastic and easy-going cricket lovers." Sources in Guyana have suggested that problems materialised because demand for tickets outstripped supply.

Tim May, the president of the Australia Cricketers' Association, said that grounds failing to meet required standards should be stripped of matches and that venues should be rated with a risk factor. "It is not just confined to the West Indies," May said. "India has problems and we have a problem [in Australia] with golf balls being thrown, while I have played in New Zealand when there has been trouble."

Students given six pack

THE England and Wales Cricket Board announced six University Centres of Cricketing Excellence yesterday (Richard Hobson writes). Oxford Brookes University, the former polytechnic, featured in the Oxford bid, while Cambridge applied jointly with the Anglia Polytechnic University. Durham and Loughborough have also been chosen, plus a cluster of universities from Bradford and Leeds and a grouping from Wales. They will compete in a round-robin, two-day championship and play three matches each against first-class counties, which represents a cutback in fixtures against first-class opposition for Oxford and Cambridge.

THE END OF A LONG RUN
The last of the 30,508 finishers in the 1999 Flora London Marathon, a results listing exclusive to The Times, breaks the tape on page 25

